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# REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

# DISTRESS (PAISLEY);

*TOGETHER WITH THE*

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX, AND INDEX.

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*Ordered, by* The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
21 *March* 1843.

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*Martis, 7° die Februarii*, 1843.

*Ordered*, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Treatment of the Unemployed and Destitute Inhabitants of Paisley, between the Month of May 1841 and the present time.

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*Martis, 14° die Februarii*, 1843.

Committee nominated:—

Mr. Wallace.
Lord Robert Grosvenor.
Mr. Manners Sutton.
Mr. Fox Maule.
Sir R. H. Inglis.
Mr. Young.
Mr. P. Stewart.
Mr. Hastie.
Mr. Pringle.
Mr. Smollett.
Mr. Horsman.
Mr. Duncan.
Mr. Acland.
Mr. Colquhoun.
Mr. Wyse.

*Ordered*, That the said Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

*Ordered*, That Five be the Quorum of the said Committee.

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*Veneris, 17° die Martii*, 1843.

*Ordered*, That the Committee have power to report their Observations, together with the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them, to the House.

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# REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Treatment of the Unemployed and Destitute INHABITANTS of *Paisley*, between the Month of May 1841 and the present Time; and who were empowered to report their OBSERVATIONS, together with the MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them, to The HOUSE:——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:—

YOUR COMMITTEE, in reporting the result of their inquiries into the matter submitted to them, beg to lay before Your Honourable House the following statement:

That an unusual combination of disturbing causes in the Trade and Manufacture of the Town of Paisley aggravated the distress there experienced during the period included in the order of reference, to such an extent, that from the 7th of July 1841 down to the present day, there was, independent of the Poor receiving parochial assistance, a large number of persons upon the Relief List of a Committee appointed to administer charitable funds.

*Vide* App. No. 1, Table V., p. 135.

It will be seen on reference to Table V. (p. 135) and No. 5, (p. 171), that the number which on the 7th July 1841 amounted to 2,180, rose to 14,791 on the 11th February 1842; that it gradually fell, with slight fluctuations, until October 4th, 1842, when the number was 5,989; from this time it again increased, until the 27th December 1842, when it reached 11,885. The number then decreased until March 7th, 1843, when it was found to be 4,442.

*Vide* Appendix, pp. 135 and 171.

That up to the 7th of February of the present year, the total amount received by the Relief Committee of Paisley was £.45,525. 2. 2½. The various sources from whence this sum was derived will be found detailed in Appendix, No. 1.

*Vide* App. No. 1, p. 131.

The amount raised within the Town of Paisley itself for the relief of its suffering Inhabitants is small, in comparison with the sums which were extraneously provided. It appears, however, by the evidence adduced before Your Committee, that the extensive bankruptcy and general prostration which overwhelmed the Corporation, as well as many of the Master Manufacturers and Merchants, deeply injuring not only the whole trade of the Town, but also the value and rent of Mills, Manufactories, Workshops, House-property, and the Income of the Shopkeepers, materially decreased the power of the Inhabitants of the Town of Paisley to subscribe to the Relief Fund to the extent, which, had not the distress affected the more wealthy, as well as the poorer classes in that Town, might justly have been expected.

Q. 255. 282. 382, &c. 594. 1084–9. 1141.

The entire amount raised in the County of Renfrew is not fully represented by the sum of money stated in Appendix, No. 1; for it appears in evidence, that the Landed Proprietors supplied employment, for which they received no adequate return, to a great number of those who had been thrown out of work in the Town of Paisley, as well as in the neighbouring Manufacturing Villages,

*Vide* App. No. 1, p. 131. Q. 248, &c. 281. 386. 398. 434. 438. 461. 488. 770. 1252.

which were in a state of almost equal destitution. It should also be remarked, that large sums were subscribed by various individuals in that County for the supply of the Soup-kitchens, in addition to the assistance which they were called upon to afford to the Town of Greenock, also in the County of Renfrew.

That the sums subscribed for the relief of the destitute at Paisley were placed from time to time, in different amounts, under the charge of certain authorities on the spot.

That the first distribution of Charitable Funds was conducted by a Committee consisting of the resident Sheriff-substitute, the Magistrates, a number of Clergymen of all denominations, and other respectable Inhabitants. On the 9th of May 1842, Mr. Twisleton, an Assistant Poor-law Commissioner, and Mr. Commissary Ramsay, undertook the management of the Relief Fund, which they relinquished on the 16th of June, the same year. Since that time it has been administered by a Committee, composed, at the suggestion of Mr. Twisleton, of two Sub-Committees, called the Labour and Store Committees, previously appointed by the General Local Committee, with power to appoint six persons in addition to their own number, which amounted to fourteen; this Committee included the Sheriff-substitute and Magistrates; but none of the Clergy were either Members of the Sub-Committees or elected by them.

The apparent exclusion of the Clergy was stated to have excited surprise and dissatisfaction at the time; but it was demonstrated to Your Committee that no disrespect whatever was intended to that meritorious body of men, but that the fourteen Members abstained from adding any of the Clergy to complete their number, partly because it was considered that those reverend gentlemen could act more beneficially in their own spheres, and partly on account of their being known to entertain opinions extremely adverse to the change recently adopted in the mode of administering relief, namely, by means of stores instead of tickets.

That although great differences of opinion existed at times among the Members of the Committees as to the amounts of the allowances to be distributed, and as to whether these allowances should be given out by tickets on grocers and other dealers in provisions, or from stores supplied by tender, Your Committee are of opinion that these differences arose from the convictions of the parties as to the best method of applying relief, and that it was their anxious desire to render such relief as beneficial as possible to the unfortunate and distressed recipients. It will be seen by Appendix No. 5, that the allowances made to those on the Relief List ranged from time to time from Three-pence to One-penny per head per day.

*Vide* App. No. 5, p. 171.

That the great number of Applicants for Relief from the Fund, rendered the prevention of imposition by parties not strictly entitled to relief from that fund, a matter of great difficulty; but that great pains were taken by the Committee to prevent such imposition.

That at the commencement of the year 1843, the Paisley Committee, finding the funds at their disposal inadequate to afford even a bare subsistence to the multitudes dependent upon them for relief, felt themselves compelled to remove from the list some whose claims appeared to them somewhat less urgent than those of the rest. They in consequence discontinued giving relief to certain classes of persons, and amongst others, to those Irish upon the list who had not been resident in Paisley ten years; although this rule did not affect a large number of individuals, still as it gave rise to a great deal of ill-feeling in the Town

Town and Neighbourhood, and engendered surmises injurious to various persons who were supposed to have influenced the Committee in their decision, it engaged the serious attention of Your Committee. Your Committee, having anxiously investigated the circumstances of the case, are of opinion, that the resolution was adopted by the Committee entirely upon their own motion, without reference to difference of religion, as it embraced Protestants equally with Roman Catholics, and that they acted solely upon the supposition that this portion of the Irish had a claim somewhat inferior to that of their Scotch fellow-sufferers, because it would be possible for them, by returning to Ireland, to obtain a subsistence under the provisions of the Poor Law Act.

Your Committee cannot conclude their Report upon the Inquiry which Your Honourable House has been pleased to devolve upon them, without declaring that, in their judgment, the local authorities, under whose directions the Fund for the relief of the distress in Paisley was administered, have upon the whole discharged the arduous responsibility which they cheerfully undertook, in a manner which entitles them to the approbation and gratitude of all parties concerned; and Your Committee earnestly invite attention to the Evidence which has been taken before them, in order that Your Honourable House may be able to appreciate the exemplary patience and forbearance with which the working classes at Paisley have borne a state of suffering unparalleled in extent and duration, and which, although symptoms of increased employment and reviving trade have manifested themselves, they regret to state still presses severely upon them.

21 *March* 1843.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

*Mercurii*, 15° *die Februarii*, 1843.

PRESENT:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Wallace. | Mr. Hastie. |
| Mr. Manners Sutton. | Mr. Pringle. |
| Sir R. H. Inglis. | Mr. Smollett. |
| Mr. Young. | Mr. Duncan. |
| Mr. P. Stewart. | Mr. Acland. |

Mr. WALLACE called to the Chair.

Committee deliberate on their course of proceeding.

*Resolved*, That W. H. Hyett, Esq., Secretary to Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee, and E. T. B. Twisleton, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, be summoned for Friday next, 17th instant.

That Robert Wilson, Esq., Secretary to Relief Committee at Paisley, be summoned for Tuesday next, 21st instant.

That John Henderson, Esq., Provost of Paisley, and Alexander Campbell, Esq., Sheriff-substitute, be summoned for Thursday the 23d instant.

[Adjourned till Friday, 17th, at half-past Twelve o'clock.

*Martis*, 14° *die Martii*, 1843.

PRESENT:

ROBERT WALLACE, Esq., in the Chair.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Hastie. | Mr. Horsman. |
| Mr. Duncan. | Lord R. Grosvenor. |
| Mr. Acland. | Mr. Smollett. |
| Mr. Young. | Mr. Pringle. |
| Mr. Manners Sutton. | Mr. P. Stewart. |

Committee deliberate respecting their Report.

[Adjourned, *sine die*.

*Veneris*, 17° *die Martii*, 1843.

PRESENT:

ROBERT WALLACE, Esq., in the Chair.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Colquhoun. | Mr. Duncan. |
| Mr. Acland. | Mr. Manners Sutton. |
| Mr. Pringle. | Mr. Smollett. |
| Mr. Young. | |

DRAFT of REPORT prepared by the Chairman, read as follows:

"THE Inquiry of Your Committee has been strictly confined to the subject-matter confided to its care by the House, namely, that of ascertaining the truth respecting the Distress and Treatment of the unemployed and destitute Inhabitants of the town of Paisley.

"The

"The evidence shows, beyond all doubt, that the unemployed Inhabitants of the town of Paisley have suffered an unprecedented degree of distress and destitution, from the month of June 1841 up to the present time. Q. 293, 294, &c. 493, &c. 496. 499. 510. 575. 705. 726. 731, 732. 831, &c. 910, 911, 912, 913. 917, 918. 957. 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089. 1154, &c. 1163, 1164. 1202. 1252. 1258. 1266, &c. 1352. 1360.

"The extent, however, of the distress and depth of destitution which has so long existed in Paisley, and been borne with such exemplary patience and forbearance by all who suffered under it, can only be known by a careful perusal of the Evidence and the Appendix.

"The Evidence will assist The House in judging of the nature of the distress, and the means applied to its relief. This Report presents a brief summary of the facts, ascertained by the concurrent testimony of the Witnesses. The marginal references direct attention to the Evidence. The Appendix comprises the more important parts of the Correspondence with the Government and the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London; and the several Tables therein show the Sums contributed, and the sources from whence these were received; also the periodical numbers on the Relief Fund, and the amounts and Scales of Allowances.

"First,—*In regard to the* DISTRESS.

"It appears from a statement furnished to the Committee, that during the period, from July 7, 1841, to June 3, 1842, independently of the ordinary Parochial Poor, the number on the Relief List of those requiring eleemosynary aid varied from 2,180 to 14,791 weekly; and that during the period from June 3, 1842, to February 14, 1843, the variations were as follow:—the highest number, 11,885, having been in the week ending December 27, 1842, and the lowest, 6,332, in the week ending February 14, 1843, being the last week of the above period. Q. 106. 924, &c. 1097, &c. 1111, &c. 1115, &c. 1278, &c. App. No. 1, Table V., p. 135.

"Whilst, however, Your Committee has heard with much satisfaction, that trade has been improving for several weeks past in Paisley, and that a considerable number of Weavers has been employed during that time in their own trade, thereby lessening the numbers on the Relief List; it has been also stated in strong terms to Your Committee, by the same Witnesses, that the condition of the great body of the working population in Paisley, and that of their families, remains in a state of the deepest distress and most appalling destitution. Q. 913. 919–923. 360–1364.

"Indeed, the pressure of the distress has been so great as to cause a vast deal of bed and body clothing and of furniture to be pawned during the more early stages; and such has been its aggravation during the later period, and up to the present time, as to leave but little, if any thing, to pawn, in the possession of many of the working population, and no means with which to redeem or purchase the articles pawned. Q. 560. 575. 732. 1152 to 1157. 1252.

"Secondly,—*As to the present* LOCAL MEANS OF RELIEF.

"It appears that such has been the shock sustained by the town of Paisley within this eventful period, as to include in the general bankruptcy, not only the leading Manufacturers and Merchants, and many of smaller note in every trade and class, but to involve even the Corporation itself, which has become Bankrupt. This event added largely to the general consternation and ruin, owing to the Savings Bank funds of many of the industrious and working population having been invested at interest with the Corporation, and being thus rendered temporarily unavailable, if not to a certain extent lost. Q. 913. 1072 1078. Q. 1072. 1079 to 1082.

"The distress, distrust, want of credit and almost total cessation of trade and manufacturing industry, coming together on this community, nearly broke up the very framework of society itself. Your Committee are glad, however, to record their opinion that great praise is due to the whole body of the Inhabitants. No breach of the peace, nor any open disrespect to the law of the land, can be laid to the charge of the town of Paisley, with the single exception of public begging having become more open and general, and this only on the ground of necessity. Q. 919, &c. 1364. Q. 322 to 380. 734 to 762. 1036 to 1043.

"Among other lamentable facts stated in the course of the inquiry, it appears that nearly the entire breaking up of the Friendly Societies in the town has taken place; inasmuch as out of 36 of these useful establishments which Paisley contained at the commencement of the present distress, only four are now existing. Q. 913 to 916. 1079 to 1083. Q. 731, 732.

"Your Committee beg to report, under the following heads, for the information of The House, a summary of the Evidence as to the treatment of the Inhabitants of Paisley, under the circumstances of their Distress, and which has been the subject of the Committee's special inquiry. They have classed it thus:—First, as to the Means available for Relief from the Month of May 1841 to the present time;—Second, as to the Management of these Means, the Mode of applying the Relief, and the Reduction of Numbers;—Third, as to the Efforts and Capacity of the town of Paisley and surrounding Neighbourhood to provide Relief;—Fourth, as to attempts at Imposition in applying for Relief;—Fifth, as to the Insufficiency of the means of Relief, and the Consequences of such Insufficiency.

"1.—*As to the* MEANS AVAILABLE *for* RELIEF *of the Town of Paisley, from May* 1841 *to the present Time.*

"A body of noblemen and gentlemen who compose the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, and whose office is at No. 74, King William-street, in the City of London, was appointed in the year 1826, in order to receive and distribute the donations of the humane and charitable persons in the kingdom, who came forward to aid the distressed and destitute at that eventful period, and which Committee was established in consequence of a Public Meeting held in London, the Lord Mayor in the chair, and has been in existence ever since. Q. 1 to 8.

Q. 5 to 8. "This Manufacturers' Relief Committee is not restricted to any particular number of persons, but is kept up by its own members adding to their numbers from time to time, according to the system agreed on at the commencement of its operations. The Committee

Q. 9. act under a regular system; the plan adopted is to issue '*Printed Queries*' to communities applying for relief, which must be replied to before any aid can be agreed to; and there are also certain '*Regulations*' issued, under which the relief is granted.

Q. 11. "The funds at the disposal of this Committee are derived from two sources; viz. from private subscriptions; and from sums raised by virtue of a collection made at the Churches throughout Great Britain, under what is commonly called 'The King's or Queen's Letters,' as the case may be.

Q. 20. "It appears that the sums which were raised by subscriptions or contributions, and under the 'Queen's Letter' in 1842, for the Relief of Distress, and which were placed at the disposal of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London, amounted together to 100,377 *l.*, and that both classes of funds composing this amount are applied under the same regulations.

Q. 39, &c. "It appears that Mr. E. T. B. Twisleton, an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner in England, was directed to proceed to Paisley early in the month of March 1842, in order to devise the best mode of applying the private subscriptions that had been made by the

Q. 617. Queen, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Stanley, Sir James Graham and Lord Abercorn, to the Relief of the Destitute in Paisley; and that after he had been several weeks in the town, incognito to all but Mr. Sheriff Campbell, he, on the 9th of May, assumed the management for providing the unemployed and destitute with provisions from stores, according to the views and under the rules he had suggested for adoption, with respect to the funds which had been originally committed to his care as private subscriptions.

Appendix, No. 1, Table I., p. 131. Q. 23. 246, &c. 925. 1121–1127. 1349–1351. 1123–1129. 1165. 1174. Q. 23. 595. "The amount of money available for the relief of the distress in Paisley, during the period from June 1841 to the present time, was 45,525 *l.* This sum consists of 15,131 *l.* 9*s.*, allotted to Paisley out of the fund raised by the general contributions in consequence of the 'Queen's Letter,' and received through the medium of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London; and of the various sums, amounting to 30,394 *l.*, specially subscribed or furnished by humane individuals, or by communities, for the relief of distress in Paisley.

Q. 68. 294. "These sums were placed, from time to time, under the charge of several local Relief Committees in the town of Paisley, and were administered to the unemployed and destitute, under regulations drawn up by these bodies; with the exception of a period of five weeks, viz. from the 9th of May to the 16th of June 1842, when the sum of 3,710 *l.* was administered in Paisley, solely under the direction of Mr. Twisleton, which sum had been intrusted to that gentleman by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London, with instructions as to its disposal.

Q. 294. "The Committee which administered the first distribution of charitable funds to the destitute in Paisley, prior to the 9th May 1842, consisted of the resident Sheriff-Substitute, the Magistrates, and a number of Clergymen of all denominations, and other respectable Inhabitants of the town; the second distribution of the funds was made solely under the direction of Mr. Twisleton; and the third under that of a Committee, composed of two Sub-committees existing in Paisley, called the Labour and Store Committees, amounting together

Q. 116, 117. 633. 1043, 1062. 1208–1209. to Fourteen persons, with Six chosen by them in addition to their number, making Twenty in all; in which number the Sheriff-Substitute and Magistrates were included, but none of the Clergy. This Committee, however, had the power of choosing any of the Clergy but did not do so.

"It appears that the First Regulation fixed by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London as a condition upon which they granted aid, was, 'That a Local Committee, consisting of the Magistrates, Clergy and principal Inhabitants be organized in every district applying for Relief:'—and it is a fact requiring the special observation of The House, that during the distress in Paisley in 1841, and up to the month of May 1842, the General Relief Committee in Paisley was composed of the Magistrates, Clergy and other respectable Inhabitants of the town; but that after Mr. Twisleton's distribution of the funds, as before noticed, the Paisley Relief Committee, which was then immediately constituted, and which still exists, did not and does not now contain any of the Clergy:

Q. 762 to 689. although when the Paisley Relief Committee failed to observe the above Regulation, the Magistrates of Paisley by a formal Minute remonstrated with the Manufacturers' Relief Committee against the exclusion of the Clergy, reminding them, but without effect, of their own regulation. It was quite evident, however, that no religious feeling was the cause of the omission.

"2.—*As to the Efforts and Capacity of the Inhabitants of the Town of Paisley and surrounding Neighbourhood to provide Relief.*

Q. 255. 282. 382, &c. 594. 1084–9. 1141. "The amount raised within the town of Paisley itself for the relief of its suffering Inhabitants, although small in amount, when placed in comparison with the sums which were extraneously provided, is shown by the evidence to be as large a sum as could have been expected, when the extent of bankruptcy and general prostration which overwhelmed the Corporation of the Town, as well as so many of the Master Manufacturers and Merchants, is taken into consideration, and so deeply affected not only the whole trade of the town, but also the value and the rents of mills, manufactories, workshops, house property and the income of Shopkeepers.

"The

"The amount raised by the County of Renfrew, as shown in Appendix, No. 1, may be considered as small, when compared with the sums sent from other quarters for relief of the distress in Paisley; but this may well be accounted for, from the admitted fact, that the Landed Proprietors around Paisley had employed a vast many of those who had been thrown idle in that town, as well as in their own localities, in trenching and digging land, and in draining and other agricultural pursuits; most of which operations would have been performed by the plough at much less cost with their usual out-door labourers, had not the distress in Paisley induced them to give relief to the unemployed, by occupying in spade labour, to a great extent, those who, in other circumstances, would not have found such work. Besides which, it has incidentally appeared to Your Committee, that other manufacturing towns around Paisley contained vast numbers of unemployed persons, to relieve whose distress the neighbouring Landed Proprietors felt it to be their positive duty to provide out-door labour; and all this without taking into account the want of employment and state of destitution of the numerous working classes in the town of Greenock, which town is also in the County of Renfrew.

*Vide* App. No. 1, p. 131. Q. 248, &c. 281. 386. 398 434. 438. 461. 488. 770. 1252.

"3.—*As to the* MANAGEMENT *of the* MEANS, *the* MODE *of applying the* RELIEF, *and* REDUCTION *of* NUMBERS.

"With reference to the management of the funds for relief, Your Committee feel bound to state their opinion that the various Committees, as well as Mr. Twisleton, have evidently been actuated by a sincere desire to relieve the wants of the distressed and destitute Inhabitants of Paisley to the utmost of the means at their disposal.

"Although great differences of opinion existed at times among the members of these Committees, as to the amounts of the Allowances to be distributed, and whether these allowances should be given out from Stores, which were supplied by Tender with the articles to be distributed, or by Tickets or Orders on grocers and other dealers in provisions, these differences evidently arose from the conscientious opinions of the parties as to the best mode of applying relief; it being quite evident that the anxious desire of all was to render such relief as beneficial as possible to the unfortunate and distressed recipients.

Q. 664, &c. 851. Q. 54. 60. 64. 96. 298. 300–1. 313. 649, &c. 787. 851, &c. 893, &c. 938, &c. to 974. 1222 to 1240. 1252.

"It will be seen in Appendix, No. 5, that the allowances made from time to time to the destitute, ranged from Threepence to One Penny per day, according to the circumstances, numbers and ages of the families; in the same table also is contained the regulations which were made and acted on by the distributors of the funds.

*Vide* App. No. 5, p. 171. Q. 519, &c. 763, &c. 795, &c. 1007. 1121, &c. 1125–7.

"Such has been the recent pressure of distress in the town of Paisley, and so small has been the amount of the funds latterly at the disposal of the Relief Committee in that town, as to induce that body to resolve on striking several classes of persons off the Relief Fund List who had been on it; namely, those who in September last were denominated single men, of 16 years of age and under 40, and who were without dependents; and in January last, all the men who had been more than 12 months on the roll, and all the Irish who had not been more than 10 years resident in the town of Paisley; which several classes were thereby reduced to the utmost destitution; and the carrying of this resolution into effect caused a great sensation and excitement in those affected by it, especially among the natives of Ireland, who as a body felt deeply aggrieved and directly pointed at; and Your Committee are assured that these feelings continue unabated to the present time, owing to the cause remaining unredressed; but fortunately, as has been made appear, their numbers were smaller than had been anticipated even by the Committee of Management, under whose resolution they were removed from the Relief Fund. It is also in evidence that had the actual number to be affected by the resolution been supposed to be so few, the Committee would not have passed such a resolution.

Q. 206. 306, 307–313. 706, &c. 571. 1005, &c. 1026, &c. 1244–5. 1272, &c. 1130, &c. 1295, &c. 1322, &c. 1333, &c. Q. 1007, &c. 1086, &c. 1271, &c. 1311, &c. 1319, &c. 1343, &c. 1350, &c. Q. 307.

"Your Committee find that no instructions were given by the Government—by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London—by the Queen or Her Majesty's Ministers who subscribed, in their private capacity, towards the general relief of the distress of Paisley—or by any other contributors to the relief of that town—to strike off from the Supply Fund List, or to refuse relief from it to any classes of persons whatever in the town of Paisley; and therefore Your Committee feel bound to express their deep regret, that funds which had been provided for the relief of all, without distinction of country or creed, and which were for a long time so applied, should latterly have been denied to any class or portion of the unemployed and destitute inhabitants of Paisley.

Q. 205. 1023, &c. 1030, &c.

"The reductions which have of late taken place, in the numbers on the Relief Fund, and the comparatively small number which it at present exhibits, are attributable to a more stringent application of the rules laid down by the Relief Committee as to the right of receiving relief; namely, to the removing entirely certain classes who had been dependent on its funds; to the striking off the natives of Ireland and their dependents, who had not been more than 10 years resident in the town of Paisley; and to the refusal of all applicants whatever for admission to the Relief Fund from and after the 6th day of January last;—which regulations and restrictions are in force up to the present time, as has been clearly established by the evidence last taken before Your Committee.

Q. 1023, &c. 1130, &c. Q. 1295, &c. 1358–9. 1365, &c.

"Among the contributions, a sum amounting to 4,670 *l.* was raised by the Clergy from their congregations in various parts of Scotland in behalf of the suffering inhabitants of Paisley, which sum was entrusted for distribution to their brethren the Clergy of all denominations resident in Paisley, and was applied by that body in affording relief to those of their flocks who were not upon the general supply fund, many of them being in a station of life above the great proportion of those who were upon it, and who were supposed to

Q. 1165 to 1194.

be entitled to receive relief in a less conspicuous manner than by being on the public fund. Of the above sum 800*l.* was expended in teaching and clothing children of both sexes belonging to the unemployed; and the committee, composed of the Clergymen of Paisley, expended the sum of 3,200*l.* greatly to the satisfaction of the recipients,—the remaining 1,600*l.* of the 4,760*l.* having been given over by them for general purposes to the Paisley Relief Committee; so that, independent of the allowances in provisions for the sustenance of life, it appears that certain sums were laid out most properly and beneficially in money, in bed and body clothes, in shoes and stockings, and in coals; a praiseworthy provision was also made for the profitable occupation of the boys and girls who had been thrown out of work, to the amount of nearly 3,000: they having been kept at school, and found in books, during such part of the period of distress as funds could be found for this purpose.—The girls were taught in six schools of industry, under the superintendence of 25 females, to sew, make and mend stockings, and perform other domestic duties; the boys were taught in 25 schools by about 80 teachers; between 60 and 70 of these teachers were unemployed artisans; but these praiseworthy arrangements were soon interrupted, and had to be abandoned for want of funds.

Q. 1203, 1204, 1205. 1218 to 1223 1250, 1251, 1252.

Q. 1170.

App. No. 3, p. 169.

"4.—*Attempts at Imposition in applying for Relief.*

Q. 107, 504. 578, &c. 800–13, 979, 980–7. 990–6. 1118, &c. 1196, &c. 1215. 1252.

"Attempts have been made from time to time by impostors, and by persons undeserving of or not entitled to relief, to have themselves placed on the Relief Fund, and this occasionally with some success; but such had been the desire of the Relief Committees, and of those under their direction, to prevent any abuse of their funds in this way, that Your Committee is satisfied that comparatively little success attended these attempts; and taking into account the long period during which the prostration and distress pervaded all classes in the town of Paisley,—the vast numbers whose condition required constant daily attendance,—and considering the close attention and great labour required from the Inhabitants of the town who composed the General Relief Committee, and who had besides their own affairs to attend to, it is rather a matter of surprise that so little imposition really existed.

"5.—*The Insufficiency of the Means of Relief, and the Consequences of such Insufficiency.*

Q. 518, &c. 763, &c. 795, &c. 1007. 1121, &c.

It has been made evident to Your Committee, that the want of funds was the chief cause of keeping down the allowances for the purchase of provisions during all this fearful period of deep distress, to the low scale adopted; viz. three-pence a day to each individual on one limited list, and three-halfpence and one penny a day to by far the greater proportion of the recipients; and that the want of funds was also the cause assigned for removing from the Relief Fund the classes enumerated above, and for refusing to place new applicants upon the books after the resolution of the 6th January 1843 had passed. Those who are still unemployed and destitute in the town of Paisley, and who are on the Relief Lists, are supplied by the Paisley Relief Committee at the above painfully small rates of allowances, and that their funds are now very limited, being, as they have been during the whole period, mainly dependent upon weekly remittances, from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London. Without the aid of this fund, Your Committee do not see how the lives of the destitute in Paisley could have been preserved.

Q. 560–564. 566–569.

Q. 322, 323, &c. 734, &c. 1036, &c.

"Since the commencement of the present distress, and especially within the last Twelve months, public begging has taken place, and has been more largely resorted to and openly tolerated since the different classes of persons already alluded to were struck off the lists.

"Your Committee cannot conclude this Report, without briefly repeating, that the destitution which has so long existed in Paisley, and which still exists, and which has been borne with such exemplary patience and forbearance by all who suffered under it, together with the consequences upon that population, can only be fully known by referring Your Honourable House to the mass of evidence, and to the Tables in the Appendix.—These painfully exhibit a very serious deterioration in those social habits which had been fostered in the Town of Paisley, by the moral and ameliorating influences of education and religious instruction; they exhibit also, at the same time, that such influences are now on a much more limited scale, owing to the prevalence of the long-continued poverty and destitution, and the inability of the population to appear in a decent manner in public or at church,—the unemployed destitute having, from the necessity of pawning their little property, been deprived, in a great measure, not only of furniture and bed-clothes, but of that which the industrious and working-classes in Scotland pride themselves in—their Sabbath suit. It is also shown that they have been very generally deprived of that praiseworthy provision which they had prudently made for infirmity or old age, or against the destitution of their families; and which, being contributed to Friendly Societies, they had reckoned upon as being as secure for this purpose as funds placed in any national institution."

Q. 1160 to 1206. 1252.

Question, "That the Committee agree to adopt the Report of the Chairman," put, and negatived.

Draft of Report submitted to the Committee by Lord Robert Grosvenor.

The same was read, considered, and agreed to.

Chairman to report.

## EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

| NAME of WITNESS. | PROFESSION or CONDITION. | By what Member of Committee Motion made for Attendance of the Witness. | Date of Arrival. | Date of Discharge. | Total Number of Days in London. | Number of Days under Examination by Committee, or acting specially under their Orders. | Expenses of Journey to London and back. | Expenses in London. | Total Expenses allowed to Witness. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | £. s. d. | £. s. d. | £. s. d. |
| John Henderson - | Provost of Paisley | Chairman - - | 23 Feb. - | 28 Feb. - | 6 | 2 | 12 – – | 6 6 – | 18 6 – |
| Alexander Campbell | Sheriff-substitute | Chairman - - | 23 Feb. - | 2 March | 8 | 1 | 16 – – | 8 8 – | 24 8 – |
| Dr. Burns - - | Church of Scotland. | Chairman - - | 28 Feb. - | 6 March | 7 | 1 | 13 2 – | 7 7 – | 20 9 – |
| Robert Wilson - | Solicitor and Town-Clerk. | Chairman - - | 21 Feb. - | 6 March | 14 | 3 | 12 – – | 29 8 – | 41 8 – |
| Rev. John Bremner | Roman Catholic Church. | Chairman - - | 4 March | 7 March | 3 | 1 | 16 – – | 3 3 – | 19 3 – |
| | | | | | | | | £. | 123 14 – |

## LIST OF WITNESSES.

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Edward Turner Boyd Twisleton, Esq. - - - - p. 9

*Martis*, 21° *die Februarii.*

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*Jovis*, 23° *die Februarii.*

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*Lunæ*, 27° *die Februarii.*

William Maxwell Alexander, Esq. - - - - p. 45
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*Martis*, 28° *die Februarii.*

Mr. John Henderson - - - - - - pp. 60, 66
Mr. Robert Wilson - - - - - - - p. 66

*Jovis*, 2° *die Martii.*

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*Lunæ*, 6° *die Martii.*

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# MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

*Veneris*, 17° *die Februarii*, 1843.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Pringle. | Mr. Acland. |
| Mr. Horsman. | Mr. Duncan. |
| Mr. Manners Sutton. | Mr. Colquhoun. |
| Mr. Young. | Mr. Patrick Stewart. |
| Mr. Smollett. | |

ROBERT WALLACE, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

*William Henley Hyett*, Esq.; Examined.

*W. H. Hyett*, Esq.
17 February 1843.

1. *Chairman.*] YOU are Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—I am.

2. How long have you acted in that capacity?—I was appointed, on the 2d of May 1826, Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, and I have continued so down to the present time.

3. Can you inform the Committee under what authority the Manufacturers' Relief Committee was formed?—It was formed by a public meeting held in the City of London the 2d of May 1826.

4. Of what persons did that public meeting consist?—Of certain City merchants, of many of the nobility and gentry, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Sir Robert Peel, &c., the Lord Mayor being the chairman.

5. Does the committee you speak of consist of a specific number of persons?—No; a certain number were appointed at the first meeting, and they have added to their members from time to time.

6. When vacancies occur, are those filled up?—No, not particularly; but as useful persons are offered to the consideration of the committee, they are proposed at one meeting, and elected at another, leaving a week between, for consideration or objection.

7. Do you mean to say that the committee elect others, in addition to their number?—Yes; according to the regulation agreed to at the first meeting, empowering them to add, occasionally, to their numbers.

8. Can you furnish the Committee with a list of names of the nobility and gentlemen who compose the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—I can; this list was advertized in all the papers of last week.

[*The same was read, as follows*:]

Manufacturers' Relief Committee, 74, King William street, City, 28th January 1843.

COMMITTEE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Archbishop of Canterbury. | G. Berkeley, Esq. | Sir Robert H. Inglis, Bart., M. P. |
| The Archbishop of York. | Benjamin Bond Cabbell, Esq. | J. Labouchere, Esq. |
| The Bishop of London. | Mr. Alderman Copeland, M.P. | L. Loyd, jun., Esq. |
| The Bishop of Chester. | S. J. Capper, Esq. | George Lyall, Esq., M. P. |
| The Bishop of Ripon. | J. J. Cummins, Esq. | Mr. Alderman Lucas. |
| Earl Howe. | John Deacon, Esq. | J. J. Lister, Esq. |
| Lord John Russell. | Sir Charles Forbes, Bart. | The hon. J. T. L. Melville. |
| Lord Stanley. | Charles Francis, Esq. | John Masterman, Esq., M. P. |
| Lord Viscount Sandon. | Josiah Forster, Esq. | Sir Moses Montefiore. |
| Lord Feversham. | Thomas Greene, Esq., M.P. | The Right hon. W. Yates Peel, M.P. |
| Lord Hatherton. | A. M. Geachey, Esq., M. P. | |
| Lord Ashley. | Sir John Guest, Bart. | L. Rothschild, Esq. |
| Sir John Pirie, Bart. | Samuel Gurney, Esq. | John Abel Smith, Esq., M. P. |
| Sir T. D. Acland, Bart. | A. Hastie, Esq, M.P. | M. T. Smith, Esq. |
| William Allen, Esq. | Benjamin Hawes, Esq. | Thomas Sturge, Esq. |
| Sir Thomas Baring, Bart. | Thomas Hawes, Esq. | K. Shuttleworth, Esq. |
| H. Blanshard, Esq. | T. A. Hankey, Esq. | Samuel Tomkins, jun., Esq. |
| Rear-Admiral Bowles. | T. W. Helps, Esq. | Mr. Alderman Thompson, M. P. |
| Mr. Alderman Brown. | Thomas Hankey, jun., Esq. | Sir Matthew Wood, Bart., M. P. |
| Robert Brown, Esq. | A. Hall Hall, Esq. | John Wild, Esq. |

*W. H. Hyett*, Secretary.

9. Can you furnish to this Committee a copy of the Rules which guide the proceedings of the Committee?—Yes; on receiving an application for relief, these Queries are sent to the applicant.

[*The same were read, as follows*:]

QUERIES:—

*W. H. Hyett*, Esq.

17 February 1843.

QUERIES:——MANUFACTURERS' RELIEF COMMITTEE.

1.—STATE the Name of each Parish or Township for which relief is requested, and the Population of each?

2.—State the nature of the Manufacture carried on in the District?

3.—State the Names of the Members of the Local Committee for the investigation and relief of Distress, and the designation of each Member?

4.—State the Names of any other Associations for the partial relief of Distress in the District, and the Funds at the disposal of each?

5.—State the number of Handicraftsmen and Manufacturing Operatives, distinguishing Men, Women and Children above 12 years of age, capable of working in the above Parishes or Townships?

6.—State the number of Handicraftsmen and Manufacturing Operatives in full work, distinguishing Men, Women and Children above 12 years of age, and the average weekly earnings of each Class?

7.—State the number of Handicraftsmen and Manufacturing Operatives partially employed, distinguishing Men, Women and Children above 12 years of age, and the average earnings of each Class?

8.—State the number of Handicraftsmen and Manufacturing Operatives unemployed and destitute, distinguishing Men, Women and Children above 12 years of age, and also the number of persons unable to work who are dependent upon them?

9.—Of the whole number thus unemployed and destitute, state how many Men, Women and Children have no settlement in any of the above Parishes or Townships?

10.—Among those who are thus unemployed and destitute, and without settlements in any of the Parishes, state how many are relieved by their own Parishes, though they are non-resident?

11.—Extract from the Quarterly Abstract of the Union or Unions to which the above Parishes or Townships belong, all the particulars respecting the numbers and classes of Paupers relieved, and the nature and amount of relief afforded, for each Parish or Township for each Quarter in the year 1840 and in the year 1841, and for the year 1842. Let this Statement for each Parish or Township be separate from the rest, and add up the expenditure of the Parish or Township for each year.

12.—Furnish also an account of the nature and amount of the relief afforded to the whole of these Parishes or Townships for the year 1840, for the year 1841, and for the year 1842?

13.—State whether a local Subscription has been recently raised, and if so, when, and to what amount?

14.—State whether any, and, if so, how much, of this local Subscription has been expended.

15.—State whether any further, and, if so, what amount of money will probably be raised by local Subscriptions?

16.—If any relief has been distributed, state whether the whole of that relief has been given in kind, or what part of the relief has been administered in kind?

17.—State whether labour has been required in return for relief, and, if so, upon what work the poor who were relieved were employed?

18.—State what work the Local Committee intend to select for the employment of those persons from whom it may be desirable to require work in return for such relief as may be afforded?

Mr. *Hyett.*] These Queries are filled up by the applicants, signed by the local Chairman, and transmitted to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee for consideration.

10. In the event of an application from any locality being entertained, is there a copy of these rules sent for their guidance?—Yes; when a grant is made upon an application, the following regulations are sent.

[*The same were read, as follows:*]

REGULATIONS on which the Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee grant Aid.

1.—THAT a local committee, consisting of the magistrates, clergy and principal inhabitants, be organized in every district applying for relief.

2.—That the questions prepared by the Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee for transmission to local committees be answered, with the concurrence of the majority of the local committee, and signed by the chairman on their behalf at a meeting duly convened for that purpose.

3.—That,

3.—That, excepting in cases of extreme emergency, no aid be granted to any town or district until replies to these inquiries have been received from the local committee, duly signed by the chairman.

4.—That in towns no aid be granted to any district or ward of the town until a general relief committee has been organized for the whole town.

5.—That no aid be granted in any new case unless local subscriptions have been raised for the relief of the town or district applying for assistance.

6.—The fund at the disposal of the committee is applicable to the relief of districts in Great Britain. The committee recognize a distinction between England and Scotland, inasmuch as in England and Wales the poor-rates are available for the relief of all classes of persons having settlements in England or Wales. The committee therefore consider it expedient to require that every local committee in England and Wales, at the period when the replies to the questions are transmitted by its chairman, shall state whether it will pledge itself to adhere to the following regulations in the administration of relief:—

(A.)—That the relief fund shall be applicable to the relief of able-bodied men destitute of employment, and their families, whether settled in the district applying for relief or not, and to widows burdened with families of children dependent upon them, and having no settlement in the district; and that all other classes shall be relieved from the poor-rates only.

(B.)—That one-half at least of the relief shall be administered in kind.

(C.)—That work shall be required in return for relief from able-bodied men.

(D.)—That the contracts made by the local committees for provisions necessary for relief in kind, shall be made after advertisement in the public journals for sealed tenders, and that the local committee, upon being satisfied of the competency of the person making the offer, shall accept the lowest tender.

7.—That in Scotland the three latter regulations, (B.) (C.) (D.), shall be observed, and the major part of the relief shall be applicable to the relief of able-bodied men.

11. Are the funds at the disposal of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee composed entirely of charitable donations and the collections made under what are commonly called King's and Queen's Letters?—We have a distinction. The collections made under the Queen's Letter in churches are transmitted by the clergymen to the Bank of England; the subscriptions raised are advertised when transmitted to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, or rather to their bankers, Messrs. Smith, Payne & Smith.

12. Were the funds which were so remitted to the Bank of England sent by the Bank to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—Yes, on a requisition that a specific sum is wanted, the money is drawn by cheques, signed by three members of the committee, on the Bank of England.

13. The Bank of England being the bank for the money collected under the Queen's Letter only?—Yes.

14. For donations you have another banker?—Yes, Messrs. Smith, Payne & Smith.

15. Can you inform the Committee under what authority charitable contributions are placed at the disposal of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee; whether it is under authority or by usage?—The subscriptions by usage, and the collections under the Queen's Letter under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

16. Mr. *Acland.*] Can you state distinctly under what authority the Committee draw cheques on the Bank of England for the amount of the collections under the Queen's Letter?—By the authority of the Secretary of State. I have before me a communication addressed to me by Sir James Graham: "The Bank of England has consented to open an account into which the contributions will be paid, and I request that the committee will come to an immediate arrangement with the Bank of England respecting the persons in whose names it shall stand." The date of this is the 17th of May 1842. Five persons were named, and the cheques were drawn in the names of any three of the members nominated.

17. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Were the proceedings with respect to the last Queen's Letter similar to those which took place in 1826?—A similar notice was given to us by the Secretary of State for the time being, that a King's Letter had been issued, the collections under which were then paid at once to our bankers, Messrs. Smith, Payne & Smith, and not to the Bank of England.

18. The funds of the King's Letter in 1826 were equally placed at the disposal of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—Yes; it was not precisely in 1826, but in 1828 or 1829; when our own subscriptions were exhausted, the Government issued a King's Letter.

19. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Who practically superintend the applications which are made to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—Any of the committee who

*W. H. Hyett*, Esq.

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chance to attend the meeting; we have meetings every week; on Wednesday and Saturday; three members form a quorum.

20. *Chairman.*] Can you state to this Committee the amount which was placed at the disposal of the Distress Relief Committee in consequence of the Queen's Letter issued in July 1842?—I can furnish that information; I have not it with me. The Queen's Letter and the subscriptions together amount to 100,377*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*; we deal with the amount generally.

21. When the two funds which you have mentioned are placed under the charge of the Distress Relief Committee, they are dealt with by that committee as if they were the same?—Yes, just so.

22. Be pleased to give the separate amounts contributed under the two different heads you have mentioned to the Committee?—The collections under the Queen's Letter amount to 75,721*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*: the subscriptions amount to 24,655*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*: Total, 100,377*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

23. You have been sending money at various times to the town of Paisley; can you furnish the Committee with an account of the different sums, with the dates at which they were sent?—I can; this is the account. The committee re-assembled 23d May; the first donation was on the 25th of May, 500*l.* Our bankers placed 10,000*l.* at the disposal of the committee before we had funds in our hands, which enabled the committee to commence business at once.

[*The Paper was read, as follows:*]

A Statement of Sums allocated to *Paisley*.

| Date. | To whom remitted. | Amounts remitted. £. | s. | d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1842: | | | | | |
| May - 25 | Edward Twisleton, Esq. - - | 500 | – | – | |
| June - 4 | Ditto for implements - - | 160 | – | – | |
| „ - 4 | Ditto - - - - - | 500 | – | – | |
| „ - 8 | Ditto - - - - - | 1,000 | – | – | |
| „ - 15 | John Henderson, Esq. (Provost) - | 300 | – | – | |
| „ - 22 | Edward Twisleton, Esq. - - | 1,250 | – | – | |
| „ - 25 | John Henderson, Esq. - - - | 500 | – | – | - - Subject to the Regulations of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee. |
| July - 6 | Ditto - - - - - | 600 | – | – | |
| „ - 11 | Ditto - - - - - | 621 | 9 | – | |
| „ - 13 | Ditto - - - - - | 500 | – | – | |
| „ - 20 | David Murray, Esq. - - - | 450 | – | – | |
| „ - 27 | John Henderson, Esq. - - - | 450 | – | – | |
| August - 3 | Ditto - - - - - | 450 | – | – | |
| „ - 10 | Ditto - - - - - | 450 | – | – | |
| „ - 17 | Ditto - - - - - | 450 | – | – | |
| „ - 24 | Ditto - - - - - | 450 | – | – | |
| „ - 31 | Ditto - - - - - | 450 | – | – | |
| September 10 | Ditto - - - - - | 400 | – | – | |
| „ - 14 | Ditto - - - - - | 300 | – | – | |
| „ - 21 | Ditto - - - - - | 250 | – | – | |
| „ - 28 | Ditto - - - - - | 300 | – | – | |
| October 5 | Ditto - - - - - | 300 | – | – | |
| „ - 12 | Ditto - - - - - | 500 | – | – | |
| „ - 19 | Ditto - - - - - | 250 | – | – | |
| „ - 26 | Ditto - - - - - | 250 | – | – | |
| November 2 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 9 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 16 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 23 | Ditto - - - - - | 300 | – | – | |
| „ - 30 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | - - Regulations not enforced after this date. |
| December 7 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 14 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 21 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 28 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| 1843: | | | | | |
| January 4 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 11 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 18 | David Murray, Esq. - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 25 | Ditto - (200*l.* for clothing) | 400 | – | – | |
| February 2 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 8 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| „ - 15 | Ditto - - - - - | 200 | – | – | |
| | £. | 15,131 | 9 | – | |

24. It appears by the statement given in, that the payment on the 25th of January last was 400*l.* in place of 200*l.*; was there any particular appropriation of that 400*l.*?—Two hundred pounds were granted for clothing, and 200*l.* the usual grant per week for the support of the unemployed operatives at Paisley.

25. Can you state to the Committee, when the first application for relief came before the Board from Paisley?—Yes; the case of Paisley was brought before the committee at their meeting, on the 25th of May 1842; by a letter from the Home Department the application from Paisley was referred to the consideration of the committee; and, upon that, the first 500*l.* was sent.

26. There have been frequent applications from Paisley since, have there not?—There have; and returns have been sent to us of the numbers in distress, and the application of the money granted until last week; we have no return from Paisley of those numbers since the 31st of January.

27. Were there any other instructions given to the local committee in Paisley, other than what are contained in the usual letter of instructions of the Relief Committee?—No other. I hold in my hand the Answers to those Queries which I read; they were transmitted to us, filled up, from Paisley.

28. Were those all properly filled up, to the satisfaction of the committee?—Yes; we may, perhaps, have had occasion to ask for an explanation occasionally, but, generally speaking, this is the document on which we acted; and the information contained in the Returns has been referred to on subsequent occasions.

29. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] By whom were the Returns forwarded to you filled up?—By the Chairman of the local committee.

30. Who was the Chairman of the local committee?—The Provost of Paisley, down to a certain time; four or five weeks since, Mr. Henderson, the Provost, declined being Chairman of the committee, and Mr. David Murray has been appointed in his place.

31. Do you know whether he is a magistrate of Paisley?—He is one of the magistrates of Paisley, a bailie, to whom we have since made our remittances.

[*The same was delivered in, and read, as follows:*]

MANUFACTURERS' RELIEF COMMITTEE.

QUERIES.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1.—State the name of each parish or township for which relief is requested, and the population of each? | Paisley consists of the burgh, which includes a population of 32,229 inhabitants, and a part of the Abbey parish. The population within the Parliamentary boundary, which encircles the town at the distance of about a mile from the outskirts, is 48,416. |
| 2.—State the nature of the manufacture carried on in the district? | The chief manufacture is hand-loom manufactures of silk, cotton and woollen ornamented fabrics, besides some thread mills, a silk mill, cotton-yarn mills, a power-loom weaving mill in cotton, a tanning establishment and foundery, &c.; but the prosperity of the town mainly depends on the hand-loom weaving. |
| 3.—State the names of the members of the local committee for the investigation and relief of distress, and the designation of each member? | The newly-formed Committee consists of 20 members, and their names are as follows:—Alexander Campbell, sheriff-substitute of Renfrewshire; John Henderson, provost of Paisley; David Murray, one of the bailies of Paisley; James Barr, ditto; Robert Paton, ditto; John Smith, ditto; Robert Farquharson, Robert Bisset, Robert Cochran and William Sharp, manufacturers; William Barr, writer; Peter Jack, William Lockhead and David Ritchie, grocers; Walter Allison, timber-merchant; Robert Kirkland, calenderer; William Lowndes, of Arthurlie; William Melvin, merchant; James Stirrat and John Kirkland, manufacturers. |

*W. H. Hyett*, Esq.

17 February 1843.

4.—State the names of any other associations for the partial relief of distress in the district, and the funds at the disposal of each?

With one exception, there is no association for the relief of the distress in Paisley, except the present Paisley Relief Committee, which has no funds whatever, and which is not likely to have any, except from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee of London. That exception is the Manufacturing Committee of Paisley, consisting of gentlemen of the town and county, who subscribed upwards of 9,000*l.* as a fund for employing weavers in their own trade, and which employed at one time as many as 912 weavers, and now employs 322; but they are said to be about to put an end to the undertaking.

5.—State the number of handicraftsmen and manufacturing operatives, distinguishing men, women and children above 12 years of age, capable of working in the above parishes or townships?

In October 1841, the number of hand-loom steads was ascertained by actual inspection; the total was 5,746:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Whereof looms employed were | 3,158 |
| Unemployed | 1,717 |
| Without loom | 871 |
| | 5,746 |

This agrees, to a certain extent, with the statement of Mr. Symonds in 1838, who reported the number of hand-looms in the town as 5,599.

6.—State the number of handicraftsmen and manufacturing operatives in full work, distinguishing men, women and children above 12 years of age, and the average weekly earnings of each class?

7.—State the number of handicraftsmen and manufacturing operatives partially employed, distinguishing men, women and children above 12 years of age, and the average earnings of each class?

The queries, Nos. 5, 6, and 7, cannot be answered with accuracy now.

8.—State the number of handicraftsmen and manufacturing operatives unemployed and destitute, distinguishing men, women and children above 12 years of age, and also the number of persons unable to work who are dependent upon them.

There being a discrepancy between former accounts of the numbers and the present, no precise answer can be given to this query. A new survey is in progress.

9.—Of the whole number thus unemployed and destitute, state how many men, women and children have no settlement in any of the above parishes or townships?

Of 6,907 persons on the Relief List, including men, women and children, into whose settlements an examination was made three weeks ago, only five individuals had not a settlement in Paisley, according to the law of Scotland, which confers a settlement of three years' residence, without begging or the receipt of parish relief. The rest of the cases on the Relief List not examined, but the number having no legal settlement must be very few.

10.—Among those who are thus unemployed and destitute, and without settlements in any of the parishes, state how many are relieved by their own parishes, though they are non-resident?

*See* the Answer to No. 9. Of the five who have no legal settlement, none relieved in any other parish.

11.—Extract from the quarterly abstract of the union or unions to which the above parishes or townships belong, all the particulars respecting the numbers and classes of paupers relieved, and the nature and amount of relief afforded for each parish or township for each quarter in the year 1840 and in the year 1841, and for the first quarter of the year 1842. Let this statement for each parish or township be separate from the rest, and add up the expenditure of the parish or township for each year.

There are no unions of the parishes in Paisley nor in Scotland.

The statement of the expenses incurred for the poor in the burgh, during the last year, from poor-rates and from the collections at the Established Church doors is transmitted herewith; but according to the law of Scotland no able-bodied person is entitled to relief from either of these sources.

*See* Statements, (B.) and (C.)

12.—Furnish

12.—Furnish also an account of the nature and amount of the relief afforded to the whole of those parishes or townships for the year 1840, for the year 1841, and for the first quarter of the year 1842?

Answered as far as can be done in answer to Query No. 11.

13.—State whether a local subscription has been recently raised, and if so, when, and to what amount?

Local subscriptions have been raised to a great extent, both in this county and in various other parts of Scotland, and also in England, and in some measure also in Ireland and India. The whole amounted to between 25,000 *l.* and 26,000 *l.*, applicable to a period commencing on 10th June 1841, and ending on 9th May 1842.

14.—State whether any, and if so, how much of this local subscription has been expended?

The whole expended, and the Relief Committee of Management existing for that period left in debt. A printed copy of an Address by the County of Renfrew upon this subject, circulated in the month of March last, is herewith sent, and referred to as containing further explanation.

15.—State whether any further, and if so, what amount of money will probably be raised by local subscriptions?

Not the slightest probability of any further sum being received, except from the London Relief Committee.

16.—If any relief has been distributed, state whether the whole of that relief has been given in kind, or whatsoever of the relief has been administered in kind?

The system of relief generally has been by distributions in kind, with exceptions in peculiar cases, under charge of a committee of the clergy; but for several weeks past there have been no money distributions under any circumstances.

17.—State whether labour has been required in return for relief, and if so, upon what work the poor who were relieved were employed?

Labour has been required from the able-bodied of the men in return for the relief given, and the species of work was the breaking of stones for road metal, and repairing a towing-path on the bank of the river Cart, and some smaller jobs of similar descriptions.

18. State what work the Local Committee intend to select for the employment of the poor in return for such relief as may be afforded?

The Local Committee is newly appointed, and have not yet taken any charge, but they intend to continue the stone-breaking so far as practicable, and to get such other work as they can find; in the finding of which, however, there is great difficulty.

*John Henderson*, Provost.

Paisley, 18 June 1842.

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(B.)

Abstract of Sums paid to Poor by the Treasurer of the General Kirk Session of Paisley, for the years ending 31st May 1841 and 1842.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1841 - - - - - - - - - - | 672 | 6 | 6½ |
| 1842 - - - - - - - - - - | 641 | 12 | 7½ |
| £. | 1,313 | 19 | 2 |

## (C.)

ABSTRACT STATEMENT of the INCOME and EXPENDITURE of the TOWN HOSPITAL of PAISLEY, from 1st June 1841 to 1st June 1842.

| INCOME. | £. s. d. | £. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| To Assessment from 1st June 1841 till 1st June 1842 | 3,225 18 6½ | |
| „ Deduct unpaid | 1,200 1 1 | |
| | 2,025 17 5½ | |
| „ Commission on collecting £. 60 15 5 | | |
| „ Stationery and Incidentals 3 3 – | | |
| | 63 18 5 | |
| | | 1,961 19 –½ |
| „ Arrears of Assessment for last Year | 415 5 10 | |
| „ Commission on collecting £. 12 9 4 | | |
| „ Prosecutions, Stamps, &c. 33 7 6 | | |
| | 45 16 10 | |
| | | 369 9 – |
| „ Boarders in Hospital and Asylum | | 525 18 5½ |
| „ Aliment advanced to Paupers belonging to other Parishes, who are resident in Paisley | | 92 19 5 |
| „ Workers in Hospital | | 140 17 2 |
| „ House Rents | | 7 – – |
| „ Dung sold | | 8 – – |
| „ Sundry Articles sold | | 21 14 9½ |
| „ Cash advanced by Bank, from 1st June 1841 till 1st June 1842 | | 662 – 2 |
| | £. | 3,789 18 –½ |

| EXPENDITURE. | £. s. d. | £. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| IN-DOOR POOR. | | |
| By Balance | | 13 12 3 |
| „ Cash for Meal, 432 bolls, at 16s. –¾d. | 346 17 6 | |
| „ Barley and Pease, 105 cwt. at 12s. 6d. | 65 12 3 | |
| „ Potatoes, 59 bolls, at 12s. 8d. | 37 8 9 | |
| „ Beef and Oxheads, 7,556 lbs. at 1¾d. | 55 18 4½ | |
| „ Herrings, 7 barrels, at 23s. 5d. | 8 4 – | |
| „ Vegetables | 11 13 –½ | |
| „ Buttermilk, Cheese and Butter | 105 3 6 | |
| „ Groceries | 77 15 8 | |
| „ Wheat Bread, 8,884 lbs. at 1¾d. | 65 3 6 | |
| „ Spirits and Wine, 36 gallons, at 9s. 6¾d. | 17 4 3 | |
| „ Beer, 510 gallons, at 1s. 3d. | 31 10 – | |
| „ Water | 9 18 – | |
| „ Coals, 350 tons, at 7s. 11½d. | 139 6 2 | |
| „ Soap and Ashes | 31 2 9 | |
| „ Gas and Candles | 18 6 6 | |
| „ Repairs and Utensils | 216 18 11½ | |
| „ Clothing | 100 2 10½ | |
| „ Shoes and Leather | 43 17 5½ | |
| „ Stationery and Advertising | 33 15 2½ | |
| „ Chaff and Straw | 9 8 8 | |
| „ Coffins and Graves, 27, at 4s. 11½d. | 10 12 10 | |
| „ Incidentals | 7 8 10 | |
| „ Salaries—Governor and Superintendent | 80 – – | |
| „ „ Clerk | 30 – – | |
| „ „ Matron | 20 – – | |
| „ „ Surgeon | 25 – – | |
| „ „ Keeper of Asylum | 39 – – | |
| „ „ House Servant | 8 – | |
| „ „ Barber | 6 10 – | |
| „ Premiums to Workers | 15 8 8 | |
| | | 1,667 7 9 |
| OUT-DOOR POOR. | | |
| „ Regular Monthly Poor | 1,180 13 5 | |
| „ Occasional ditto | 468 12 3 | |
| „ Nursing List | 193 15 1 | |
| „ Clothing | 75 12 3 | |
| „ Provisions | 11 18 – | |
| „ Education | 13 15 7 | |
| „ Coffins and Graves, 243, at 4s. 11d. | 60 – – | |
| „ Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, and Eye Infirmary | 10 17 6 | |
| | | 2,015 4 1 |
| GENERAL EXPENDITURE. | | |
| „ Interest | 65 – 2 | |
| „ Law Expenses | 20 – – | |
| | | 85 – 2 |
| „ Cash in hand | | 8 13 9½ |
| | £. | 3,789 18 –½ |

Paisley, 3d June 1842.

(Examined, and found correct.)

*J. H. Brown*, Convener.
*Alexander Robertson*, Treasurer.
*Thomas Eaglesim*, Auditor.

DEBTS owing by Town Hospital on 1st June 1842:

| | £. s. d. | £. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| To Greenlees' Fund | 200 – – | |
| „ Paisley Commercial Bank | 822 – 2 | |
| „ Sundries | 500 – – | |
| | | 1,522 – 2 |

STOCK and DEBTS due by Sundries:

| | £. s. d. | £. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| By Arrears of Boarders in Lunatic Asylum | 250 10 6 | |
| „ Clothing | 20 – – | |
| „ Arrears of Assessment £. 1,200 1 1 | | |
| „ Considered irrecoverable 800 1 1 | | |
| | 400 – – | |
| „ Balance against Hospital | 851 9 8 | |
| | | 1,522 – 2 |

From 1st June 1841 till 1st June 1842, the average number of In-door poor has been 207, during which time there have occurred 109 admissions, 86 dismissions, and 27 deaths.

| INMATES of HOSPITAL and ASYLUM on 1st June 1841: | | INMATES of HOSPITAL and ASYLUM on 1st June 1842: | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Males | 96 | Males | 91 |
| Females | 110 | Females | 111 |
| | 206 | | 202 |

The average number of In-door poor from 1st June 1841 till 1st June 1842 has been 207. The gross In-door expenditure during that period has been 1,667 *l.* 7 *s.* 9 *d.*; being at the rate of 8 *l.* 1 *s.* 1 *d.* per annum, or 3 *s.* 1 *d.* weekly for each inmate.

The average number of the regular Monthly Roll of Out-door poor, inclusive of the Nursing Roll, has been 522; the expenditure on their account has been 1,546 *l.* 11 *s.* 10 *d.*, being at the annual rate of 2 *l.* 19 *s.* 3 *d.* for each person, or 1 *s.* 1½ *d.* weekly.

The average number of regular poor of all classes during the past year has been 729. The gross amount of expenditure incurred for their maintenance has been 3,299 *l.* 1 *s.* 9 *d.*, being at the rate of 4 *l.* 10 *s.* 6 *d.* per annum for each pauper, or 1 *s.* 8¾ *d.* weekly.

The balance against Hospital on 1st June 1841 was 245 *l.* 13 *s.* 1 *d.*; at the present date it stands as above, 851 *l.* 9 *s.* 8 *d.*, showing a balance against the Hospital, as compared with last year, of 605 *l.* 16 *s.* 7 *d.*

*W. H. Hyett*, Esq.
17 February 1843.

32. The rules you are understood to have laid down for the general distribution of relief, were complied with in the case of Paisley?—Yes; the date is the 18th of June.

33. You were not obliged to relax your rules?—We have been obliged to relax our rules since that period; six weeks ago we agreed to give 200*l.* a week, and 200*l.* a week has been sent down to the present time, with an addition of 200*l.* for clothing, at a particular period, viz. 25th January.

34. Among your rules you state that one-half of the relief shall be distributed in kind, and that work shall be required in return for the relief; were those rules complied with in the case of Paisley?—Generally; I can furnish the Paisley returns for every week, if desired.

35. The statement that they were so complied with was made by the authority of the chairman?—Yes.

36. *Chairman.*] Can you furnish the Committee, if required, with extracts of the applications from Paisley for relief, and with the replies given thereto?—Certainly.

37. Mr. *Acland.*] Is the 200*l.* a week intended to continue?—It is continued at present, but we may stop it whenever we feel it to be right to do so.

*Edward Turner Boyd Twisleton*, Esq.; Examined.

*E. T. B. Twisleton*, Esq.

38. *Chairman.*] THE Committee understand you are still an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner for England, and now appointed one of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the operation of the Poor Laws in Scotland?—Yes.

39. You went to Paisley in the month of March 1842, did you not?—I did.

40. In what capacity?—I went on behalf of certain individual members of Her Majesty's Government, to suggest to the relief committee at Paisley the adoption of certain regulations for relief as a condition of the subscriptions of those individual members of the Government.

41. To whom did you first communicate your arrival in Paisley?—To Alexander Campbell, Esq., sheriff-substitute of the county of Renfrew.

42. Had you instructions from those gentlemen who sent you, how to proceed in your mission?—I received no instructions whatever until March 23, 1842.

43. What was the date of your arrival in Paisley?—The 7th of March.

44. What was the nature of your general instructions?—I am very willing to state to the Committee everything I did, but I do not consider myself authorized to state my instructions; I will communicate most fully to the Committee everything I did; I have not the least scruple about that, but I object to entering into statements respecting my instructions.

45. Do you consider that the instructions to which you allude were of a private nature?—I think they were quite of a private and confidential nature; and my answers were likewise of a private nature; I do not consider them official at all.

46. Mr. *Acland.*] You state that you went on behalf of certain individual members to state certain things to direct the application of their individual subscriptions?—Yes.

47. And having no connexion with the public service?—Just so.

48. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You have already stated that the general scope of your instructions was to make arrangements for the better distribution of that money by way of relief?—Yes; of private funds, for which they had put down their names.

49–52. Will you be so good as to state to the Committee what were your first proceedings after reaching the town of Paisley, with regard to the distribution of the funds which you have alluded to?—I took no step whatever until the 24th of March, I having received instructions on that day; previous to that time I was in Paisley entirely in a private capacity, and likewise incognito.

53. From the 24th of March, in what capacity were you?—On the 24th I entered on my duties of acting on behalf of individual members of the Government who had set down their names to the subscription for the Paisley relief fund.

54. *Chairman.*] What were your first proceedings on the 24th, with regard to the distribution of the fund entrusted to your advice and care?—On the 24th I was

*E. T. B. Twisleton*, Esq.

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I was requested to state to the committee, that individual members of Her Majesty's Government, who had put down their names to subscribe to the relief fund, were desirous that the system of management should be altered in accordance with the following principal suggestions. The two main conditions of relief were these: that, first, work should, as far as was practicable, be given to all able-bodied men for not less than 12 hours, under the superintendence of a paid officer, to prevent idling and wasting of time; secondly, that the system of giving tickets on the grocers of the town should be entirely abolished: that stores of oatmeal or oatmeal cakes, bread and potatoes, should be purchased by contract on tenders, and that able-bodied persons on the relief list, whether male or female, should be supplied solely from the stores. Those were the two conditions which I mentioned to Sheriff Campbell, who had previously, himself, on the 29th of December, moved a precisely similar resolution with respect to stores, in the Relief Committee. There was a meeting on the 24th of March, at which Sheriff Campbell attended and proposed those two conditions, and stated that he had reason to believe that the subscriptions would not be paid over unless those conditions were complied with. The first, respecting the work, was agreed to be complied with; the second, respecting the stores, was deferred, according to the terms of the resolution, until it was seen how the other condition worked. In fact, the condition with respect to the stores was practically, in a civil way, rejected. I immediately communicated the result of the debate on that day, and I received instructions on the 28th of March to state, that the condition of the stores was indispensable, and was to be insisted upon. It so happened, that on the 28th of March there was a meeting of a County Committee, which had been organized for receiving subscriptions for the Relief Fund, which were separate subscriptions, but which the County Committee granted from time to time to the General Relief Committee of Paisley.

55. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You stated that you received instructions on the 28th of March, that the question of the stores was to be insisted on, as a condition for what?—As a condition for the payment of the subscriptions.

56. *Chairman.*] When you speak of a condition, you mean one proposed by the same parties?—Precisely so; it so happened, that the County Relief Committee met that day, and in order to have those conditions fully complied with, it was necessary that both the County Relief Committee and the General Relief Committee should assent to the conditions, and I accordingly attended, on the 28th of March, the County Relief Committee, and that was the first time at which I announced myself publicly in the town. I then stated the wish of the individual members of the Government who had subscribed to the Relief Fund, that the other condition should be likewise complied with, respecting the stores; there was a debate upon that proposition; there was a modified opposition to it; but eventually a resolution was passed, adopting the system of stores, as recommended.

57. Did you state the names of the parties with respect to whose subscriptions you acted?—I did not, it was so well known in the town. I stated that I acted on behalf of the individual members of the Government who had subscribed to the Relief Fund.

58. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] There was one noble lord who had subscribed, who was not a member of the Government?—Yes, the Marquis of Abercorn subscribed 500*l.*

59. And Her Majesty?—Yes.

60. Mr. *Pringle.*] You were authorized by others, besides members of the Government?—Yes, the subscription of Her Majesty was dependent on the same conditions, and the Marquis of Abercorn's the same. On the 31st of March there was a meeting of the General Relief Committee of the town. I attended that committee, and stated what I had stated previously to the County Committee. There was a very long debate upon that in the General Relief Committee. The proposition for stores was very strongly opposed; but ultimately the General Relief Committee assented to the condition of stores, as the County Committee had done before, with some slight modifications; but the principle of stores was fully assented to, as I understood, and a store committee was appointed; a committee of four or five individuals, to superintend the stores: The new system excited great opposition, and was very much disliked in the town; the operatives met, and passed resolutions against it, and appointed a deputation, who presented a remonstrance to the Relief Committee. There was another meeting of the General Relief Committee on the 11th of April, when a resolution

was

was formally moved by the Rev. Dr. Burns, that the committee, on re-consideration, find that the adoption of stores is inexpedient; that the articles already contracted for by the committee, if any, be appropriated to the soup kitchen, and that the plan of paying by lines be continued as before. What is here called lines, is a system of tickets to grocers in the town. On this a long discussion ensued; and the members appearing equally balanced, it was moved that the discussion on the subject should be adjourned to the following Friday, which motion was carried by a small majority. Afterwards, during the same meeting, the inexpediency of delay on a point of that nature was strongly urged, inasmuch as this necessarily paralysed the proceedings of the store committee, the thing remaining uncertain; and the store committee not knowing what to do, and it was agreed to proceed at once to a division on the main question, and the result was a small majority in favour of the stores. This division was unquestionably irregular; in fact, some of those who had voted for the adjournment had left the meeting, not supposing that the discussion would be re-opened. Subsequently there was another meeting against the stores among the unemployed. Another deputation was appointed, which presented another remonstrance to the Relief Committee, and Mr. M'Gilvray, a baker of the town, moved that Dr. Burns's motion should be re-considered; that motion, however, was rejected.

61. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Were you present at all those meetings?—Yes, I was.

62. Mr. *Young.*] Did you vote?—No; I took a part in the discussion, but did not vote. Wednesday, the 20th of April, was the first day appointed for opening the depots of stores; and in order to prevent confusion, it was settled that the women should be supplied on that day, and that the supply of the men in the new mode should be deferred till the Saturday following. The women accepted the stores peaceably, although with evident reluctance; but when Saturday came, the men on the Relief Fund held a public meeting in a large space in front of the County Buildings, at which they passed strong resolutions against the adoption of stores, and they eventually determined not to accept supplies from them. They sent during the day three deputations of remonstrance to Sheriff Campbell, who answered them with great firmness and tact, and who endeavoured to impress upon them that those who advanced money for the Relief Fund had a right to make what conditions they pleased for their subscriptions.

63. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Were those men professing themselves to be in a state of absolute destitution of the necessaries of life?—They were; I suppose they were on the list.

64. Mr. *Young.*] They were unemployed?—They were unemployed; Sheriff Campbell told them explicitly that he could not hold out to them the slightest expectation that the regulation respecting the establishment of the stores would be altered. They likewise sent a deputation to the Provost of Paisley, who was the convener of the General Relief Committee, requesting him to convene a meeting of the Relief Committee with the least possible delay, for the purpose of again considering the question of stores. It is right to state that the Provost was always opposed to the system of stores, which of course he had a perfect right to be, it being a matter open for a difference of opinion. He promised the deputation to convene a meeting of the General Relief Committee, but he said that such meeting could not be held for three or four days, as it was necessary that notice should be given to the members; in the meanwhile he recommended the operatives to accept the stores and go home peaceably; he let it indeed be known that he was himself favourable to some alteration in the system which had been laid down, but he strongly advised them to accept the stores and go home peaceably. The operatives, however, did not go home; they congregated in large numbers, and remained in the open air till a late hour of the night. However, I am not aware that any breach of the peace was committed, and except in making a demonstration of physical force, a certain demonstration of their numbers, they behaved very well indeed; small parties at the same time went about the town requesting subscriptions, and in some cases obtained subscriptions, and the sum which they collected was divided among them on Sunday morning, I believe, about two o'clock. On Monday the 25th of April there was what is called a public meeting of the inhabitants held in the evening, at which after much discussion the parties on the Relief Fund were recommended to accept the supplies from the stores; resolutions at the same time were passed requesting the committee to grant additional articles for the stores; and a deputation was appointed to urge this request on the committee. On the 27th of April there

*E. T. B. Twisleton*, Esq.

17 February 1843.

was another meeting of the Relief Committee; a deputation was introduced, and explained the wishes of the operatives; a discussion ensued, and ultimately the Provost moved a resolution, which was carried, that as a temporary measure, till the opinions of Her Majesty's Ministers were ascertained regarding the resolutions of the committee for supplying the unemployed from stores, the committee should resolve to pay for two weeks one-fourth of the allowance given to the unemployed in money, and that the remainder be given in orders on the stores for oatmeal, potatoes, bread and cakes.

65. Mr. *Horsman.*] Did the terms made use of in that resolution, "Her Majesty's ministers," apply to the members of the Government who had subscribed, or the Government?—The words speak for themselves; they were not my words, they were the words of the Provost. There was a great deal of confusion during the meeting, and this resolution was proposed quite at the end; with respect to the particular wording of it, I am in no way responsible; I have not the smallest doubt that the Provost meant the individual members who had subscribed to the Relief Fund; that was very well understood.

66. *Chairman.*] You have stated that your mission in Paisley, as being from the individual Ministers of the Crown who had subscribed in aid of the people, was perfectly understood; that it was known you did not represent the Government?—That was perfectly understood; I stated it over and over again in the Relief Committee; I recollect one instance, of a member of the Relief Committee using the expression "Her Majesty's Government," and although I had addressed the committee before, I rose again, and desired particularly to set the committee right and the honourable gentleman right about the expression he had used; I wished him and the whole Relief Committee to understand that I was acting solely on behalf of individual members of the Government as individual subscribers, and not as ministers.

67. Mr. *Young.*] Then whatever importance was attached to your opinion at any of these discussions, you suppose it was derived entirely from the influence which the amount of subscription you had it in your power to give or withdraw would confer?—Yes; mainly.

68. *Chairman.*] Will you have the goodness to proceed with your narrative?—Those resolutions were submitted for approval to the parties who had subscribed to the Relief Fund, and were rejected; and then on the 9th of May, the second subscription, the subscription of 2,000 *l.* raised in the county being entirely exhausted, the committee being 500*l.* in debt, and there being 10,000 individuals on the relief list, I announced the intervention of the Government, not of the individual members; I announced the intervention of Government to supply the unemployed with food on the same conditions as the individual members of the Government had previously given their subscriptions. I stated nothing whatever one way or the other as to the time such intervention would last; but considering all the circumstances I have mentioned before I announced that intervention, which in fact was temporary, as I will show. From the 9th of May, for precisely six weeks, I had charge, with respect to the superintendence of the Relief Fund at Paisley, of the whole of that fund. The Bills during that time were paid either by myself or through Mr. Deputy Commissary-General Ramsay, who arrived in Paisley about a week after the 9th of May; during that period of six weeks there was spent 3,606*l.* 2*s.* 1¼*d.*; of that sum I paid myself 402*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, but the residue was paid by Mr. Ramsay, he accounting for the mode in which it was expended. Of that 3,606*l.* 2*s.* 1¼ *d.*, 402*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* was a donation from the Queen; the whole of the rest was received from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee. I have reason to believe that 500*l.* of what I received from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee was advanced by the Government, and repaid in a very short space of time; but I did not receive that from the Government; I received it from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee; and I have reason to believe that I did not receive any money from the Government.

69. At what time, and in what manner, were the private subscriptions applied in Paisley by you?—They were never applied by me; they were deposited in the hands of Mr. Sheriff Campbell and Mr. Sheriff Robertson, in trust, not to be expended until the conditions I have adverted to were complied with. Previous to the 9th of May, I had stated to the General Relief Committee that those subscriptions would not be paid over until certain conditions were complied with, those being the conditions I have specified.

70. Mr. Sheriff Campbell and Mr. Sheriff Robertson will be able to state when those subscriptions were paid, they being trustees for their distribution?—Yes; previous to the 9th of May, the conditions never had been complied with respecting the stores, for, in fact, at first stone-breakers by piece-work were paid in cash, and then during a fortnight one-fourth of their allowance was given in cash to all the unemployed, according to the resolution passed a fortnight before. I wish the Committee fully to understand the continual battle there was on the establishment of stores previous to the 9th of May; the evident dislike of the Relief Committee to the measure, and the impossibility of reckoning on the Relief Committee adhering to the system for a week. I wish that to be understood, with reference to what subsequently occurred.

71. There was a continual battle in the Local Relief Committee, with divisions for and against the system of stores? —Yes.

72. Mr. *Young.*] You were occasionally under the apprehension that after the money was advanced, the system might be altered the next week?—I did not feel any certainty up to the 9th of May, how long the system of stores would be maintained, there was so great a difference of opinion in the committee on the subject.

73. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Subsequently to the 9th of May, the funds which supplied the relief of the poor in Paisley were extraneous funds, funds not arising from the local contributions?—Yes.

74. And that was the reason you took the management of the expenditure?—Yes; I had nothing to do with the application of any local funds, but solely with funds coming from a distance.

75. Contributions from Her Majesty and from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—Yes; the 402*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, the donation of Her Majesty, and the money sent from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee; I had nothing to do with the distribution of any money subscribed in the neighbourhood.

76. *Chairman.*] In what way did you feel authorized to deal with the monies contributed by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London?—I considered myself authorized to expend them only on the conditions on which Her Majesty and the individual members of the Government had given their previous subscriptions.

77. What authority had you to deal with those funds?—The money was at first sent down from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee to me personally, in the same way as I had to do with the 402*l.*

78. Did the Manufacturers' Relief Committee give you any instructions how to apply that money?—I did not consider that my instructions as to the mode of applying the subscriptions came from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee; for about two or three weeks after the 9th of May, I did not consider that my mode of management depended on the Manufacturers' Relief Committee.

79. Did you receive any direct instructions from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee as to the application of that money?—I cannot speak positively on that subject without reference to the letter. I considered, that I did not act as far as respected the principles of the management on instructions from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee. As far as superintendence went, I did not consider myself as acting under their instructions.

80. But on the principle you had been proceeding on, having been acting on certain principles, you applied them to the best of your judgment?—Yes, on the same principles as the money before the 9th of May had been given. The Committee will understand that the Manufacturers' Relief Committee was not fully organized till some time afterwards; it was subsequent to the 9th of May that there was any Queen's Letter at all. It was impossible I could be acting under their instructions, for the funds from the Queen's Letter had not been received, and practically the Committee was not acting. I acted provisionally from the time that the local subscriptions were exhausted, on the 9th of May, until the Manufacturers' Relief Committee was organized and was in full operation.

81–2. Mr. *Acland.*] Was there, subsequently to the 20th of June, a regular local committee, organized according to the regulations of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—There was.

83. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Was that local committee in Paisley distinct from the General Relief Committee which had been acting in Paisley up to that time?—Yes; I was requested by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee to appoint a new committee, and I accordingly did so, to the best of my judgment.

*E. T. B. Twisleton, Esq.*

17 February 1843.

84. *Chairman.*] Be pleased to state to the Committee the recommendations you made to the Relief Committee in Paisley as to appointing a new committee, in accordance with the rules of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London?—In regard to the appointment of a new committee, I felt placed in a very great difficulty. The General Relief Committee was a very large one. I suppose, including town and country members, there were about a hundred members; and, although very many of these were merely nominal, yet I should think that thirty or forty members occasionally attended the Relief Committee. It was a very large body; and, without wishing in the least degree to reflect upon them, for they had a very difficult duty to perform, still it was evident that the views I had to carry out were not their views. When I had to consider the re-organization of the committee, there were three different courses open to me. As it struck me, I might either have allowed the old committee to go on, and have said, I will request you to communicate with the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, or I might have appointed individual members, appointed a Committee by name, or I might have requested the old Relief Committee to name other members to constitute a new committee. I did not adopt either of those three measures, for the following reason: With respect to naming the old committee, it appeared to me that the committee was too large; that their views differed; they had a perfect right to differ, but their views did differ from those on which I acted; I abandoned that idea. With respect to naming particular members of the committee, it appeared to me very invidious to do so, especially as I was a stranger in Paisley; if I had selected 20 individual names, I might have exposed myself to attack, and whatever I had done I should have been accused of partiality. The third course open was that of requesting the General Relief Committee to name 20 members; that certainly was one that suggested itself to me, and in favour of which there was a great deal to be said; but after considering the subject, it appeared to me that, with the views of the General Relief Committee, I could not feel a confidence that they would elect such a committee as would act in harmony with the Manufacturers' Relief Committee on the views on which I had previously acted, and therefore I abandoned that intention. What I did was this: there had been in existence previously two committees, one called a Labour Committee, and the other called a Store Committee, each of which committees had been appointed by the General Relief Committee; they had both of them shown their efficiency; the Store Committee had a very difficult task to perform; in fact, the idea of supplying the unemployed population from stores was deemed at first impracticable, and I considered that the Store Committee had proved their efficiency by carrying it out in spite of opposition. Then there was a Labour Committee, which had also shown its efficiency—that had been appointed by the General Committee; and I consolidated those two committees, joining to them the magistrates who had not been members of either of them, and they were 14 in number. Then, making them the nucleus of a new committee, I intrusted to those 14 the nomination of six, making the whole number 20.

85. Was that committee so formed?—Yes; the committee was formed in that manner under my directions; I had nothing to do with naming any individuals, I merely appointed existing committees as a nucleus for a new committee, and intrusted to this committee so consolidated, which, with additions, consisted of 14, the appointment of six more members.

86. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You did this in accordance with the wishes and directions of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—Yes; they requested me to organise a committee, leaving it to me in what manner to appoint them.

87. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You mentioned that the Store Committee and the Labour Committee were appointed by the General Relief Committee; at what period were they chosen?—Previous to the 9th of May; the Store Committee was named on the 31st of March, when the General Relief Committee agreed to adopt the system of stores; and the Labour Committee had been previously elected; I do not know exactly on what day.

88. Were those committees chosen out of the General Relief Committee?—Yes.

89. They were chosen probably from those whose views were in favour of stores?—Certainly.

90. They were sub-committees, disposed to act on the plan of giving stores instead of giving lines?—Yes.

91. *Chairman.*] Were there any objection raised to your taking the step of appointing those gentlemen as a committee, and leaving them to appoint six others?—

others?—There certainly was; I attended a meeting of the General Relief Committee, and told them of my intentions, and the mode in which I proposed to constitute the new Relief Committee. There were a number of individuals who seemed unwilling to cease to belong to the Relief Committee; it struck me so, though at the same time I must say that there was a very general expression of self-congratulation at being spared the trouble of superintending the expenditure of the money in the Relief Committee even, I think, by those who did not seem to like the old Relief Committee being dissolved. It was certainly an unpopular measure.

92. Mr. *Duncan.*] Can you state when this committee of twenty was nominated, and when it came into work?—It did not come fully into work until just about six weeks; about five weeks after the 9th of May, it met and nominated sub-committees and a board of revision; and after they had nominated sub-committees and a board of revision, I left Paisley; when this local committee was fully organized I left Paisley; I left Paisley after the 20th of June.

93. Can you state to the Committee the date of the first application which was made to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London for assistance?—I received, I think, from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee money on the 25th or 26th of May.

94. Was there an application made for that money?—There must have been, directly or indirectly.

95. Did the applications emanate from you, or from the Provost, as chairman of the General Committee?—Those sums which Mr. Hyett has stated were sent to me, must have been applied for by me, directly or indirectly; those under the names of Provost Henderson and Sheriff Campbell must have been applied for by them, as members of the embryo new Relief Committee; but the money was expended under my superintendence, and was accounted for by Mr. Ramsay during those six weeks.

96. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You stated that you met with considerable opposition with regard to the changing the system of issuing tickets to grocers, to that of relieving from stores; can you state whether any effect was produced on the expense of the relief of the poor by that change?—With respect to the whole expense, previous to my going there, and the expense up to the time of my leaving, I can make a statement which will put the Committee into full possession of the real facts of the case; and I should be glad to do so, because I have seen at various times statements in the newspapers and elsewhere about the expense. I have never taken the trouble of making any statement upon the subject, but I think I can make the comparative expense of the system which was acted on, at the one time and the other, apparent. From June 1841 up to the 28th of February 1842, the total expended was 18,467*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* With respect to the weekly expense during the whole of that time, I cannot give an accurate statement, but some idea of the monthly expense may be formed from a statement of the grocers' accounts for six months; that is, the tickets on shop-keepers; for the month of June 1841, 25*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*; for July, 154*l.* 11*s.* 0½*d.*; August, 488*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*; September, 317*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; October, 666*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*; November, 1,388*l.* 17*s.*; December, 2,500*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; January 1842, 2,185*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*; February, 2,600*l.* 17*l.* 2*d.* This was quite independent of soup kitchens in Paisley, which occasioned an expenditure of 2,160*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.*; 906*l.* expended by the Clothing Committee, for clothes, and various other sums which are here, which will give a very general statement of all the expense to the end of February. From the month of March to the 31st, the total sum expended during that month was 3,990*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*; the average was 840*l.* 14*s.* a week, excluding the villages in the neighbourhood of Paisley, and including the villages, 900*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* For Paisley, only, deducting the villages, the average expense for the whole period, was 120*l.* 2*s.* a day, or 840*l.* 14*s.* a week. From the 1st of April till the 9th of May, when the system was altered, the total expense was 4,915*l.* 1*s.* 5½*d.*; including the villages, the weekly expense was 905*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; the sum given to the villages was 369*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, but after allowance for that, the weekly expense was 905*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* The total expense from the 9th of May, for the next six weeks, until June 20th, allowing for a difference of 44*l.* for stores in hand, was 3,650*l.* 2*s.* 1¼*d.*; the total average weekly expense was 608*l.* 7*s.*; this is excluding the villages. Including all the items, and making allowance for the 369*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, which was given to the villages from April 1st to the 9th of May, there was really a reduction of one-third in the average weekly expense. At the same time, it is to be understood, that it is impossible the

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store system could be more expensive, for one very simple reason. I did not make a single change in the expenditure in the money given, with the one exception of one resolution passed by the Labour Committee, with whom I acted in concert from the 9th of May till the 20th of June, that 6*s.* a week should be the maximum for relief; but with that one single exception, I did not make any difference whatever in the allowances, and I studiously avoided it; in fact, it was a very delicate matter to interfere with allowances, and it was a thing which, in the state of excitement, to a certain degree, of the town, I was desirous of avoiding, more especially as I had great unwillingness that the matter should become known in other towns, lest they should be making applications to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee or other sources. I was extremely unwilling that it should become matter of public notoriety; I thought the less said upon the subject the better; therefore I studiously avoided making any alterations in the scale of allowances; the scale was afterwards altered by the committee whom I appointed, and, I believe, very judiciously altered; I have a very high opinion of the alteration afterwards made, but I studiously abstained from making any alterations in the scale of allowances; my attention, in fact, was directed more to the work, and to the store system, in carrying out the views on which I had to act.

97. *Chairman.*] Your only desire was, that the matter should not be publicly discussed, for the reasons you have assigned?—Yes; I did not wish to alter the scale of allowances. I wish it to be understood that the reduction of expense during the six weeks I was there, arose in minor items, for example, in the expenditure from the 1st of April to Monday the 9th of May, there is an item of 123*l.* 0*s.* 8½*d.* for emigration. A similar item does not afterwards occur.

98. Did not the difference of expense arise from a more economical system?—It was just the same, as far as the mere stores went; it was in minor items, as far as I can account for the difference; as far as the actual relief went, it was on precisely the same scale as before; the only difference made by the stores was, that whatever an individual was entitled to, for instance, 3*s.*, he had on the old system a ticket which he might take to the shop and get 3*s.* worth of goods from the shop; instead of that, on the new system, he went to the stores and got more for his money; as far as the relief went, instead of their being worse off, with the exception of one class, as far as actual food went, they were really better off, for they had it at the tender price; there was a public advertisement for tenders, and the lowest tender was generally, but not always, accepted, because regard was had to the quality as well as to the cheapness of the provisions; but they were, in fact, better off. In order to smooth the way the stores, I thought it desirable to let them have the benefit of the difference between the wholesale and the retail price, there was so much ill-feeling in the town. I did not deem it at all desirable, while I was there, to make any reduction in the allowances; I allowed the old scale to go on, and the operatives to have the benefit of the difference between the wholesale and the retail prices. Before dismissing this subject, I will quote to this Committee the reasons assigned by the Chairman of the Stockport board of guardians for recommending to that board the giving supplies from stores. Those reasons are very well stated; and on hearing them read, the Committee will understand why it was deemed advisable to introduce a similar system in Paisley. Mr. Foster, the chairman of the board of guardians at Stockport, said in January last year, "Before the pressure came upon us from the stoppage of the Stockport mills in August last, we had given but little relief in kind; we had introduced it in some degree, but we could not bring it into general and complete operation until then; we had had some difficulty about it; the poor objected to it; the public, some of them, were not very friendly to it, and it was opposed to the interests of the shopkeepers; but the guardians, seeing that it would be a great advantage to the poor, and a great saving to the rate-payers, determined to go on with it, and did, in fact, carry it fully into effect under the pressure which began about the commencement of August; both the poor and the body of the rate-payers are at this time satisfied with the propriety of these arrangements, and the approbation of the public is shown by the fact that the committee who have the management of the relief funds, have adopted the same plan, after some discussion, and notwithstanding some memorials against it from the shopkeepers, to which they gave the answer, that the funds had been raised for the benefit of the poor, and not for the benefit of the shopkeepers; we are now giving the whole of our relief to able-bodied poor in kind, except

perhaps

perhaps in a very few peculiar cases, where there may be illness in the family; that is to say, in bread, oatmeal and potatoes, and we are careful to provide all these of a superior quality." Then the question is asked, "What are the reasons which induced you to resort to relief in kind rather than in money?—We frequently heard from persons who were applicants for relief at the board, and who had the previous week received several shillings relief in money, that their children had not had a mouthful of meat for one or even two days; this led us to the reflection that the money they had received from the board had not been laid out in food, and so applied to the maintenance of the children; we had in some instances good reason to believe that a part of the money was expended in buying drams, in redeeming clothes from the pawn-shop, or in paying rent and old scores at the shops; that the due support of their children was neglected; we therefore determined to furnish them with food, and with food only, thereby securing to the children what was intended for them; our expectations, we believe, were in a great degree realized, for the complaint of the children being without bread is seldom heard at our board from those who are in the receipt of relief; although at the first this was unpalatable to the poor, they are now sensible that relief so afforded is of more real benefit to them than if they had money given to them to lay out for themselves; the saving to the rate-payer by this mode of affording relief is about 20 per cent., and at the same time we ensure to the poor articles of provision of more uniformly good quality than they would themselves buy at the retail shop; thus we have realized the double advantage of giving the greatest amount of relief to the poor at the least expense to the rate-payer." I state these reasons thus given, as entirely agreeing with them, and as containing the views of those who first introduced the store system.

99. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You have mentioned as one of the causes of the increased expenditure an item of emigration; will you explain to what you refer?—I refer to money given by the Local Relief Committee for the emigration of some of the operatives.

100. Did you understand that those parties really emigrated?—I believe so; I do not mention this as at all objecting or approving, but merely showing what was the nature of the expense; I do not mention the expense with a view to throw the blame on any party, and I do not mention the reduction of expense afterwards as being in the least a subject of merit.

101. What was the sum so laid out in emigration?—One hundred and twenty-three pounds and eightpence halfpenny.

102. Do you understand that that was expended in freight?—I am not able to state; very probably in giving them a little outfit.

103. Did you understand what party superintended the expenditure of this money so laid out in emigration?—The General Relief Committee; I think it was a sub-committee, that would dispose of money for emigration purposes.

104. Are you aware of the number who were emigrated by that fund?—No, I am not; the only way in which I can account for some of the statements in print with respect to the expense, which certainly are not correct, is, that there are different items of expense during that month; grocer's account for provisions, 2,490*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*; for the month ending March 31st there were soup-kitchen accounts, 735*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; probably some of those items were brought forward, only without considering the other items. There is one other matter which I desire to notice. Some statements have been made with respect to the difference of expense arising from an alteration of the classification by which those above 16 received separate allowances. I wish to explain how that arose; I made an alteration in the classification with respect to the numbers on the Relief List, but I specially gave instructions that that should not in any way affect the amount of relief, but should leave the payments the same as they were before; my instructions were misunderstood or not complied with, for some reason or other, and for a short time in one week an alteration of payments was made with regard to the new classification, which, in particular instances, I have no doubt, added to the claims of particular families; but I had nothing whatever to do with that; it was a mistake.

105. When you speak of the numbers, you mean the numbers in a family?—Yes.

106. Mr. *Young.*] Will you state the numbers?—I have here a statement, exhibiting the numbers of the unemployed on the Relief List from the 7th of

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July 1841 to the 3d of June 1842; the enumeration is fortnightly until the 23d of October, and afterwards weekly.

[*The same was read, as follows:*]

WEEKLY STATEMENT of PARTIES on the RELIEF LIST in the Town of *Paisley*, from July 7, 1841, to June 3, 1842.

| | Married Males. | Unmarried Males and Widowers. | Dependents. | Widows, Deserted Wives and Single Females. | Dependents. | TOTAL. | Increase. | Decrease. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1841: | | | | | | | | |
| July - - 7 | 348 | - - | - - | 165 | 1,667 | 2,180 | | |
| „ - - 21 | 339 | - - | - - | 267 | 1,969 | 2,575 | 395 | |
| August - - 4 | 192 | - - | - - | 390 | 1,891 | 2,473 | - - | 102 |
| „ - - 18 | 212 | 137 | 814 | 381 | 655 | 2,099 | - - | 374 |
| September - 1 | 229 | 92 | 749 | 300 | 700 | 2,070 | - - | 29 |
| „ - - 15 | 224 | 76 | 700 | 311 | 725 | 2,036 | - - | 34 |
| „ - - 29 | 285 | 85 | 864 | 365 | 851 | 2,450 | 414 | |
| October - - 13 | 547 | 200 | 1,743 | 500 | 1,166 | 4,156 | 1,706 | |
| „ - - 23 | 723 | 288 | 2,359 | 609 | 1,421 | 5,400 | 1,244 | |
| „ - - 30 | 865 | 358 | 2,412 | 877 | 1,754 | 6,226 | 866 | |
| November - 6 | 1,023 | 424 | 3,617 | 940 | 1,880 | 7,884 | 1,218 | |
| „ - - 13 | 1,176 | 444 | 4,050 | 1,057 | 2,114 | 8,841 | 957 | |
| „ - - 20 | 1,249 | 471 | 4,300 | 1,227 | 2,454 | 9,701 | 860 | |
| „ - - 27 | 1,343 | 507 | 4,625 | 1,392 | 2,784 | 10,651 | 950 | |
| December - 4 | 1,379 | 521 | 4,750 | 1,609 | 3,200 | 11,450 | 799 | |
| „ - - 11 | 1,379 | 521 | 4,750 | 1,609 | 3,218 | 11,477 | 27 | |
| „ - - 18 | 1,390 | 524 | 4,785 | 1,637 | 3,274 | 11,610 | 133 | |
| „ - - 25 | 1,354 | 511 | 4,662 | 1,680 | 3,360 | 11,567 | - - | 43 |
| „ - - 31 | - - | - - | - - | - - | - - | 12,180 | 513 | |
| 1842: | | | | | | | | |
| January - - 7 | 1,430 | 540 | 4,925 | 1,936 | 3,872 | 12,703 | 523 | |
| „ - - 14 | 1,488 | 563 | 5,127 | 2,089 | 4,178 | 13,445 | 742 | |
| „ - - 21 | 1,517 | 575 | 5,230 | 2,280 | 4,560 | 14,160 | 715 | |
| „ - - 28 | 1,547 | 587 | 5,335 | 2,396 | 4,792 | 14,657 | 497 | |
| February - 4 | 1,554 | 593 | 5,367 | 2,419 | 4,838 | 14,771 | 114 | |
| „ - - 11 | 1,518 | 578 | 5,240 | 2,485 | 4,970 | 14,791 | 20 | |
| „ - - 18 | 1,442 | 542 | 4,960 | 2,443 | 4,886 | 14,273 | - - | 518 |
| „ - - 25 | 1,451 | 563 | 5,035 | 2,363 | 4,726 | 14,138 | - - | 131 |
| March - - 5 | 1,407 | 529 | 4,840 | 2,264 | 4,528 | 13,568 | - - | 570 |
| „ - - 12 | 1,394 | 509 | 4,758 | 2,137 | 4,274 | 13,072 | - - | 496 |
| „ - - 19 | 1,387 | 506 | 4,732 | 2,064 | 4,128 | 12,817 | - - | 255 |
| „ - - 26 | 1,219 | 376 | 4,364 | 2,012 | 4,024 | 11,995 | - - | 822 |
| April - - 2 | 1,005 | 209 | 4,235 | 1,916 | 3,832 | 11,197 | - - | 798 |
| „ - - 9 | 998 | 221 | 3,827 | 1,887 | 3,774 | 10,707 | - - | 490 |
| „ - - 15 | 958 | 274 | 3,705 | 1,793 | 3,586 | 10,316 | - - | 391 |
| „ - - 22 | 934 | 298 | 3,599 | 1,853 | 3,706 | 10,390 | 74 | |
| „ - - 29 | 934 | 298 | 3,599 | 1,793 | 3,586 | 10,210 | - - | 180 |
| May - - 5 | 950 | 316 | 3,603 | 1,721 | 3,442 | 10,032 | - - | 178 |
| „ - - 13 | 1,030 | 351 | 3,698 | 1,843 | 3,686 | 10,608 | 576 | |
| „ - - 20 | 1,055 | 320 | 3,686 | 1,840 | 3,680 | 10,581 | - - | 27 |
| „ - - 27 | 1,065 | 345 | 3,878 | 1,645 | 3,290 | 10,223 | - - | 358 |
| June - - 3 | 1,098 | 356 | 3,998 | 1,655 | 3,310 | 10,417 | 194 | |

There is a very long story with respect to the enumeration; with respect to this Relief List, it was never founded on a list *nominatim* of the individuals, but the weekly numbers of dependents were mainly founded on estimates. From August the 18th to October the 23d inclusive, the estimate of dependents on each male was $2\frac{1}{3}$; from November the 6th to March the 5th inclusive, it was estimated that the number of dependents on each male was $2\frac{1}{2}$; from March the 12th to June the 3d inclusive, it was estimated that the number of dependents on each male was $2\frac{3}{4}$. Females in the same way: from August the 18th to October the 23d inclusive, it was estimated that each female had $2\frac{1}{3}$ dependents; from October the 30th to June the 3d, it was estimated that each female had 2 dependents. This was done almost entirely on estimates, that is to say, at particular times

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times an estimate was taken from going over the names of each male and female, and counting how many dependents he or she had; so at those particular times the numbers were founded to a certain degree on enumeration, though not on a list *nominatim*; but estimates of any sort or kind, even though based on actual enumeration, struck me as unsatisfactory, and it did appear to me desirable that a list *nominatim* should be made out.

[*The Witness delivered in the Accounts referred to by him, which were read, as follow:*]

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Subscriptions voluntary assessments, &c., collected in Paisley, and elsewhere | 7,245 | 6 | 10½ |
| Subscriptions transmitted by London Committee | 4,715 | – | – |
| „ „ Edinburgh Committee | 960 | – | – |
| „ „ Glasgow Committee | 500 | – | – |
| „ „ Greenock Committee | 439 | 18 | 9 |
| Subscriptions handed over from Ministers' Committee | 4,170 | – | – |
| „ „ Gentlemen of the county of Renfrew | 1,353 | 13 | 8 |
| „ „ Tandragee Committee (Ireland) | 250 | – | – |
| £. | 19,633 | 19 | 3½ |

Treasurer's Statement of the Expenditure of the Relief Committee from June 1841 to 28th February 1842.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grocers' accounts for the month of June 1841 | 25 | 15 | 6 |
| „ „ July | 154 | 11 | –½ |
| „ „ August | 488 | 10 | 5 |
| „ „ September | 317 | 8 | 4 |
| „ „ October | 666 | 16 | 1 |
| „ „ November | 1,388 | 17 | – |
| „ „ December | 2,500 | 8 | 5 |
| „ „ January 1842 | 2,185 | 13 | 5 |
| „ „ February | 2,600 | 17 | 2 |
| Clothing Committee | 906 | – | – |
| Manufacturing ditto | 275 | – | – |
| County Labour ditto | 445 | – | – |
| Kilbarchan ditto | 312 | – | – |
| Johnston ditto | 387 | – | |
| Bridge of Weir ditto | 88 | – | – |
| Barrhead and Neilston ditto | 55 | – | – |
| Pollockshaws ditto | 20 | – | – |
| Elderslie ditto | 9 | – | – |
| Transportation ditto | 15 | – | – |
| Coal distribution ditto | 131 | 5 | 3 |
| Ministers' ditto | 2,620 | – | – |
| Soup kitchens in Paisley | 2,160 | 9 | 5½ |
| Catholic congregation | 30 | – | – |
| Printing, stationery and advertising | 193 | 19 | 2 |
| Deputations to London and Edinburgh | 81 | 12 | 8 |
| Implements and wages to stone-breakers | 56 | 8 | 9 |
| Destitute cases and incidents | 68 | 11 | 2 |
| Wages to clerks and visitors | 283 | 19 | 6 |
| £. | 18,467 | 3 | 4 |

For the Month of March 1842.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grocers' accounts for provisions | 2,490 | 13 | 6 |
| Clothing Committee | 50 | – | – |
| Out-door Labour ditto | 20 | 4 | 2 |
| Johnston ditto | 97 | – | – |
| Kilbarchan ditto | 79 | – | – |
| Bridge of Weir ditto | 37 | – | – |
| Pollockshaws ditto | 20 | – | – |
| Elderslie ditto | 4 | – | – |
| Coal ditto | 50 | – | – |
| Ministers' ditto | 300 | – | – |
| Soup kitchen ditto, and accounts | 735 | 4 | 6 |
| Catholic congregation | 10 | – | – |
| Printing and advertising | 21 | 5 | 6 |
| Implement Committee | 30 | – | – |
| Wages to clerks and visitors | 45 | 16 | – |
| £. | 3,990 | 3 | 8 |

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From the 1st of April to Monday the 9th of May 1842.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grocers' accounts for provisions | 1,406 | 1 | – |
| Soup kitchens | 1,086 | 8 | 1½ |
| Provision stores account | 62 | 6 | 6 |
| Destitute cases relieved | 31 | 3 | 9 |
| Relief in Cash | 105 | 12 | 1½ |
| Stores for two and a half weeks | 1,238 | – | – |
| Out-door labourers | 205 | 4 | 4 |
| Coal distribution | 18 | 10 | – |
| Printing, stationery, &c. | 109 | 15 | 10 |
| Ministers' committee | 200 | – | – |
| Roman Catholic congregation | 10 | – | – |
| Villages in Renfrewshire | 369 | 16 | 3 |
| Emigration | 123 | – | 8½ |
| Incidentals | 16 | 2 | 3 |
| Wages to clerks and visitors | 74 | 14 | 7 |
| Secretary and treasurer | 86 | 6 | – |
| Accounts unpaid | 22 | – | – |
| | 5,165 | 1 | 5½ |
| Deduct value of stores in hand | 250 | – | – |
| £. | 4,915 | 1 | 5½ |

*Note.*—In the month of June a bill of 160 *l.* was likewise paid for implements of labour purchased between February and the 9th of May.

From Monday, May 9th, to 20th June 1842.

| | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Meal | £. 2,189 | 19 | 3 |
| Bread | 990 | 10 | 10¾ |
| Potatoes | 116 | 14 | 5 |
| Groceries | 9 | 12 | – |
| | 3,306 | 16 | 6¾ |
| Fuel | 63 | – | 2 |
| Implements | 49 | 13 | 2½ |
| Repairs of ditto | 21 | 18 | 8 |
| Pay of visitors, &c. | 118 | 16 | 6 |
| Transport | 22 | 5 | 6 |
| Printing and stationery | 14 | – | 7 |
| Advertisements | 4 | 12 | 7 |
| Town dues | 4 | 18 | 4 |
| £. | 3,606 | 2 | 1¼ |
| Add the difference in value of the stores in hand on Monday, May 9th, and Monday, June 20th | 44 | – | – |
| £. | 3,650 | 2 | 1¼ |

*Martis*, 21° *die Februarii*, 1843.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Manners Sutton. | Mr. Acland. |
| Mr. Duncan. | Mr. Colquhoun. |
| Sir Robert H. Inglis. | Mr. Patrick Stewart. |
| Mr. Smollett. | Mr. Pringle. |
| Lord Robert Grosvenor. | Mr. Hastie. |
| Mr. Young. | Mr. Horsman. |

ROBERT WALLACE, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

*Edward Turner Boyd Twisleton*, Esq.; further Examined.

*E. T. B. Twisleton*, Esq.

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107. *Chairman.*] CAN you state to the Committee whether the estimate of expense was made from the weekly statement of parties on the Relief List in the town of Paisley?—No, it was not; to the best of my belief the following was the manner in which that list was made out; any individual when he applied for relief obtained a schedule, which I will give in; this which I now produce contains an account of the number of children above 10, and the number of children under 10, and so on.

[*The same was delivered in, and read, as follows:*]

SCHEDULE for Persons Unemployed, and applying for Relief.

County Buildings, Paisley, 1842.

| NAME. | Age. | NATIVE OF | How long resident in Town. | PLACE OF ABODE. | | Length of Residence there. | Number of Children above 10. | Number of Children under 10. | OCCUPATION. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | No. | Street. | | | | |

| Average Amount of Earnings when last employed. | Amount of Wife's Earnings. | Amount of Children's Earnings when last employed. | Amount of Children's Earnings at present. | Supply from other Sources must be distinctly stated. | Last Employer to certify Amount of Wages, and how long idle. | State of Family as to Health. | Correctness of Schedule to be certified by the Overseer of the Poor for the District. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |

This was filled up by the applicant, and if the case was thought a proper one for relief, the individual was admitted on the pay list. All those schedules being filed, if any person went off the list, that schedule was supposed to be taken off the file; if any one came on the list, his schedule was supposed to be put on the file; then the numbers of the cases on the schedules were added together, a certain proportion of dependents was allowed to each case, according to the estimate for the time being, and the sum total was given as the number of the individuals

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on the Relief List for that week; but I conceive the estimate of the expenses was not formed upon those schedules. There was a pay list quite separate from those schedules of the persons unemployed, and each individual was paid so much, according to a scale framed by the members of the Relief Committee. All the sums paid to those different individuals came to a certain amount, and that amount was, I conceive, the foundation for the estimate of the expenses of the succeeding week. The weekly lists of numbers had, to the best of my belief, nothing whatever to do with the estimate of the expenses. Having explained how the Relief Lists were made out, I will proceed to explain how an alteration was made in the mode of calculating the numbers, and why I really am unable to give a satisfactory account of the actual numbers by enumeration on the Relief List, as I should have wished. The Committee will understand that with respect to the system of relief, there are two points; first, the principle on which you grant the relief; and, secondly, the constitution of the body which gives the relief, and its arrangements for scrutinizing applications. With respect to the principle of relief, I have done with that at present. I had instructions to insist on certain conditions, and those certain conditions I carried out; but after the 9th of May, I was very desirous of introducing some alterations in the other point, with respect to the organization of a body for the scrutiny of cases for relief; and this is so very much mixed up with the question of the numbers on the Relief List, that I could not make this question clear without explaining what I did after the 9th of May. When the Relief Committee was first established at Paisley, some of the members of the committee gave up a portion of their time every evening to the scrutiny of cases; of course the services of those gentlemen were highly valuable, but as the number of cases continued to increase, and as the administration of the Relief Fund lasted so many months, they found it incompatible with their other duties to go on with the scrutiny of cases. No blame could attach to them individually; they had a great deal of trouble for a very long time. At last the scrutiny of cases was entrusted to the clerks on the Relief Fund, aided by occasional communication with members of the Relief Committee. At the time I was in Paisley in March, that was the system acted upon, but at that time there was a project for introducing a system of dividing the town into districts, and appointing voluntary visitors for each district, which, as it was framed on the model of a system which it was said had answered in Spitalfields, was called the Spitalfields system; but when the time came for it to be acted on, it was found impossible to get individuals to work the system out; and so the matter dropped, and the system went on as before by the clerks, with the occasional intervention of members of the Relief Committee. The clerks were individuals who were themselves in general weavers, or who, but for this system of their being clerks, would probably have been on the Relief Fund. It certainly did strike me that, however estimable the characters of those individuals might be, yet it was not a safe principle to entrust the scrutiny of cases to individuals who were themselves weavers, and who, but for their being clerks, would have been probably on the Relief Fund, being unemployed persons. It therefore seemed to me very desirable to alter that arrangement; for the higher the character of those individuals, the more important it appeared to me that they should set an example of exerting all their energies to the utmost by seeking for employment, or by emigrating, if it was possible. I wished to introduce a system somewhat analogous to that of the boards of guardians in England. It has always appeared to me that the best system which has been devised for the organization of administrators to distribute relief to able-bodied persons is that of a board of guardians, with paid officers under them; the board of guardians, as a board, alone having to decide upon the cases, the paid officers being present, to give a full account of all the cases, and to visit the applicants at their own homes. The advantage of this system is, that relief is given by a board, and not by individuals, which diminishes the effect of a great number of misleading influences; at the same time, the paid officers are constantly on their trial, so that they cannot be lax, or inefficient, or partial, without their laxity, or inefficiency, or partiality being detected, and they are subject to removal at once. Being impressed with these views, immediately after the 9th of May I issued advertisements for the election of five clerks (there had been five old clerks), not one of whom was to be a weaver, or any one who had been on the Relief Fund, either in Paisley or in Glasgow. Of course it required a little time to issue the advertisements and receive the applications, and that, in fact, took a fortnight. On the 21st

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of May five clerks were elected on that principle. I had always had misgivings about the system of the estimate of the numbers on the Relief List. I had always suspected that somehow or other there was an inaccuracy, unintentionally, but that there was an inaccuracy in the estimate; and I requested the five new clerks to make a list *nominatim*, getting from the five old ones a list of those who received pay, to visit the houses, and to let me know the names and ages of every single individual on the list. They had a fortnight to visit those cases, and to make out the list, which was to be for the 3d of June, which it will be observed is the day on which the list I have before given in ends. This new list was to be framed on the plan of the christian and surname and age of each individual being recorded separately; all persons above 16 years of age, except married women residing with their husbands, were reckoned distinct cases, and all under 16 years of age were classed as "dependents." This list *nominatim* was made out by the five new visitors. I will give in the list which they returned to me, which made the total number on the Relief List only 7,620; but they stated in the form which they sent in to me, that it was possible some cases relieved during the week might have escaped their notice, and I considered it very likely that a considerable number might have been omitted, it being a new matter in the town to have this list *nominatim*, and I calculated at the time that there would be probably above 8,000 persons on the Relief Fund. That was borne out so far by subsequent examination, that it appeared that the names of 396 individuals must have been omitted by the new clerks; so that the sum total of the individuals amounted to 8,016 in that week; and as far as I can make out, that was in fact the exact number on the Relief List in that week ending the 3d of June, when, as according to the system of estimate, the sum total is represented to be 10,417. I will give in the list, returned by actual enumeration, which they handed to me. That included the classes of males above 60 years of age, males within 60 years of age, with numerous minor divisions, which will be seen by the list.

[*The same was delivered in, and read, as follows:*]

RETURN, by actual Enumeration, of Parties on the Paisley Relief Fund during the Week ended Friday, 3 June 1842.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Males above 60 years of age - - | 123 | Of the 123 above 60 years of age— | |
| | | 35 are single men, or widowers without dependents. | |
| Males between 16 and 60 years of age | 1,183 | 88 are married, or widowers with dependents. | |
| | | 123 | |
| Total number of Males above 16 - | 1,306 | | |
| Dependents on the above, including male orphans under 16 - - | 2,802 | Of the 1,183 between 16 and 60— | |
| | | 370 are single men, or widowers without dependents. | |
| Total of Males and their Dependents, &c. - - - - | 4,108 | 813 are married men or widowers with dependents. | |
| | | 1,183 | |
| Females above 60 years of age, not residing with a husband - - | 243 | Of the 1,545 females between 16 and 60, there are— | |
| Females between 16 and 60 years of age, not residing with a husband - | 1,545 | Wives deserted by their husbands, or widows with children, &c. - - | 847 |
| | | Single women with children - - | 65 |
| Total number of Females above 16, not residing with a husband - - - - - | 1,788 | Other single women - - - | 633 |
| | | | 1,545 |
| Dependents on the above, including female orphans under 16 - - | 1,724 | | |
| Total of Females and their dependents, &c. - - - - | 3,512 | | |
| And Males, &c., as above - | 4,108 | | |
| Total number on the Relief List - | 7,620 | | |

It is possible that some cases relieved during this week may have escaped notice.

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During the next fortnight there was a net increase on the list of 430; the number for the week ending Friday, June 17th, was 8,446; with that week my interference with the Relief Fund ceased, and in the following fortnight there was a net increase of 1,331; so that on the week ending July the 3d, the sum total amounted to 9,777. A very minute analysis was made of those 9,777 persons, and I will give in the list with respect to those.

[*The same was delivered in, and read, as follows:*]

First Class,—Able-bodied Men.

| | |
|---|---|
| 501 single men. | 202 man and wife, and three children. |
| 116 man and wife. | 128 ditto - ditto „ four ditto. |
| 226 ditto - ditto, and one child. | 102 ditto - ditto „ five ditto. |
| 214 ditto - ditto, „ two children. | 46 ditto - ditto „ six ditto. |

Second Class,—Women.

| | |
|---|---|
| 808 single women. | 93 woman and four children. |
| 376 woman and one child. | 58 ditto „ five ditto. |
| 265 ditto „ two children. | 20 ditto „ six ditto. |
| 217 ditto „ three ditto. | |

Third Class,—Men excused from work.

| | |
|---|---|
| 50 single men. | 10 man and wife, and three children. |
| 35 man and wife. | 18 ditto - ditto „ four ditto. |
| 28 man and wife, and one child. | 4 ditto - ditto „ five ditto. |
| 19 ditto - ditto „ two children. | 1 ditto - ditto „ six ditto. |

And the abstract of the above is as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Able-bodied men - - - - - - - - | 1,535 |
| Dependents - - - - - - - - | 3,592 |
| Men excused from work - - - - - - - | 165 |
| Dependents - - - - - - - - | 309 |
| Women - - - - - - - - - - | 1,837 |
| Dependents - - - - - - - - | 2,339 |
| | 9,777 |

108. Was the enumeration taken in the same way?—I have every reason to believe it was taken in the same way, with this exception, that they did not go on the same principle of making every one above 16 a separate case as to classification, which will account a little for the difference between the number of dependents; but I believe it was founded otherwise on a list *nominatim*; that will not make any difference as to the gross amount.

109. Were the five paid clerks continued during the second period of a fortnight?—They were.

110. Will you proceed in your narrative?—It has been already stated by me, that the nomination of five new clerks was preparatory to the establishment of a board of revision, to be analogous to a board of guardians; the board of revision was to meet early in the week ending June the 3d, but there were certain local differences, which I do not wish to enter into, which prevented the plan being carried out immediately in the beginning of the week; we have all forgotten those differences, and I do not wish to revive them now. On the 4th of June, a letter was written from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London, requesting me to re-organize the Relief Committee in Paisley; now, the re-organization of a Relief Committee to correspond with the Manufacturers' Relief Committee was altogether a very different thing from a board of revision; that gave an entirely new current to my intentions; it would not have done for me to go to work with a board of revision, when every thing was in a state of transition; and the point for me to consider was the organization of a Relief Committee in Paisley. It requiring a good deal of consideration how the new Relief Committee could be best appointed, the whole question of a board of revision was left in abeyance till the new Relief Committee was constituted. Immediately the new Relief Committee was constituted, they appointed a sub-committee as a board of revision, and entered into the scrutiny of cases; but I had then left Paisley; so that, with respect

respect to the system I wished to introduce myself, owing to circumstances, I was not able to carry it out; every thing on this head was merely provisional, when I was at Paisley; I did no more during the weeks following the 9th of May than carry out strictly the conditions respecting stores and work.

111. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Can you state the date when the Relief Committee was organized?—I do not appear to have the time exactly, but Mr. Wilson will be able to state it.

112. Are the Committee to understand that during the six weeks you took the charge you had the assistance of a new Relief Committee?—I had always the assistance of the old Store Committee and the old Labour Committee; it was always in concert with them that I acted.

113. The chairmen of those two committees being who?—The convener of the Labour Committee was, I believe, Sheriff Campbell, and Provost Henderson belonged to the Labour Committee.

114. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You are understood to say that the Labour Committee and the Store Committee were two sub-committees of the Town Relief Committee?—Yes.

115. *Chairman.*] In organizing the Relief Committee in Paisley, did you attend to the instruction of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee; the first regulation is this, "That a Local Committee, consisting of the magistrates, clergy and principal inhabitants, be organized in every district applying for relief;" were all those bodies included in the committee you organized?—I received no instructions to that effect; I conceived that the mode of organizing a new committee was left to my discretion.

116. Can you state whether the committee was formed of those different bodies, namely, the magistrates, the clergy and the principal inhabitants?—The committee which I formed was not formed of all those classes; it included all the magistrates; but in the 14 appointed by me as the nucleus of the new committee there were no clergymen, and I could not have named any clergymen without going out of my way, to specify individuals, which was contrary to the principle on which I formed the committee; I merely consolidated two old committees, avoiding having any thing to do with the names of individuals; I could not have named clergymen as members of the committee without admitting a new principle; but it was in the power of the 14 appointed by me to name all the other six clergymen if they pleased; there was nothing in the nature of exclusion of clergymen; the additional six might have been all clergymen if the other 14 preferred it.

117. In point of fact, were there any clergymen among the 20?—The 14 did not name any clergymen, so that it turned out there was no clergyman amongst the 20.

118. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Your principle was not to name any single individual?—Precisely so.

119. But you gave to this committee of fourteen power to add six to their number?—Yes.

120. Therefore, if they thought that the clergymen of the town should form any part of the committee, it was in their power to name them?—Certainly.

121. Therefore, the responsibility of omitting to name them, you consider to rest with them, and not with you?—Certainly; I consider that I am not at all responsible for there being no clergymen on the committee.

122. *Chairman.*] During the time you administered the funds committed to your charge by the Committee for Manufacturers' Relief, did you communicate the amounts derived from that committee to the local committee?—I did not.

123. Did you communicate to the magistrates of the town the amount you had derived from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—I did not, officially; I may, very likely, have mentioned it to Provost Henderson, or I may not; I had no motive for the contrary, but I did not make any statement officially of the amount I received.

124. Mr. *Duncan.*] You mentioned that there were committees in existence, one called a Store Committee, and the other a Labour Committee; with the original formation of those sub-committees you had no concern?—I had nothing to do with their original formation.

125. The Committee are to understand, that in the formation of those two

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committees, they had not thought proper to put any of the clergy into them?—Certainly.

126. *Chairman.*] You stated that there was a very large committee of nearly a hundred persons?—Yes; probably there were a great many who never attended at all.

127. That committee you advised should be reduced in number?—Yes.

128. Did the clergy compose part of that large committee?—There were a great many clergymen who took a very active and energetic part.

129. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You have stated that you thought it would be difficult and invidious to select any names out of that large committee, and therefore you chose those two sub-committees to form the nucleus of a new committee?—Yes.

130. Therefore, you did not choose your new Relief Committee from the large number, excluding any parties from it; but you chose, as a nucleus, the two sub-committees that already existed?—Yes.

131. *Chairman.*] In the sub-committees there were no clergymen?—In the sub-committees there happened to be no clergymen.

132. And those two sub-committees formed into one did not choose any clergymen?—No.

133. So that, virtually, there was no clergyman on the committee?—There was not.

134. When you arrived in Paisley, you have stated that you remained incognito for a considerable time, with the exception of your making your arrival there known to Mr. Sheriff Campbell?—Yes; but I now remember that Provost Henderson and one of the magistrates of the town called upon me; I do not recollect the precise day, but they did call upon me; they knew that I was a stranger there, and that I had been making some inquiries about the distress.

135. You did not inform Mr. Sheriff Campbell what your mission was?—Till the 24th I had no precise instructions, so that I could not tell him precisely; I distinctly asked him to aid me in obtaining information as to the state of the town.

136. Did you give him to understand that you came there to get information in relation to the application of charitable donations for the relief of the town?—Yes, and the state of the town.

137. You have stated that you consider yourself debarred from stating what your instructions were with regard to the application of private funds subscribed by The Queen, the Marquis of Abercorn, Sir Robert Peel and others; do you consider yourself precluded from stating the instructions you had when you began to act for the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—I do; I should wish to decline saying any thing respecting my instructions.

138. On what grounds do you refuse to give information to the Committee with respect to your official duties?—I have stated what I did in the town.

139. Did you receive any instructions from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London in regard to your duties in Paisley with respect to the formation of the committee?—To the best of my belief, no; I was requested to reorganize for them a committee, but no specific instructions were given to me.

140. You received no specific instructions from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee with respect to the formation of that committee?—That is my impression.

141. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] To the best of your belief, you are certain that you received no directions requiring or desiring you to exclude clergymen, or any class of individuals, or any individual, by name, from that committee?—To the best of my recollection and belief, there was no instruction on that point; I was left to my own discretion; I re-organized the Committee in the way I thought best.

142. *Chairman.*] It has been stated that there was a considerable degree of excitement with regard to your having been supposed to represent the Government or their measures at Paisley, and in consequence a vote of thanks was tendered to you as being the representative of the Government, and was accepted by you, by returning thanks at the time on your own behalf and on behalf of the Government; will you state whether that was the case?—Thanks were tendered

to

to me for the manner in which the system of relief was administered, and I answered that letter.

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143. Were the thanks connected with the term "Government," in the common acceptation of the word; were you thanked as the representative of Government with respect to the performance of your duties in Paisley?—I do not remember; it is very possible that they may have used the term Government.

144. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] When were those thanks tendered?—After I left Paisley.

145. It was very natural that the thanks should then be tendered to you as an officer of the Government, inasmuch as you had announced the intervention of Government on the 9th of May?—Certainly; I should not consider it extraordinary if the word "Government" were introduced, but I do not remember the words.

146. Mr. *Acland.*] Have the goodness to explain what you meant in your answer as to the intervention of Government?—My announcement was that Government, not as individual members, but as a Government, would supply the unemployed at Paisley with food, as distinguished from money. I wish that point, that they would supply the unemployed at Paisley with food, as distinguished from money, to be understood, because that may explain what at first sight may appear a very large promise; but the previous battle having been with respect to stores and cash, it having been whether relief should be given to them in stores or in money, the expressions I made use of with respect to supplying them with food were intended to impress upon the minds of the committee that no money would be granted.

147. The question respects not the mode of relief, but what you meant by the intervention of Government, as you have stated in the close of the answer to Question 68, that no money was advanced by Government?—As it turned out, they advanced no money, except 500*l.*, which was repaid in forty-eight hours.

148. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You understood that Government was prepared to advance money, supposing no money had been collected by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—I understood that.

149. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] In fact, though you understood that, you are not understood to state that you specified any time for the intervention of Government?—No, I specified no time.

150. As it turned out, Government did not interfere by providing money or funds, except by an advance for forty-eight hours of 500*l.*?—So I understood.

151. The time at which you made that statement was a time when all the local funds were entirely exhausted?—Yes.

152. And you state that there were upwards of 10,000 unemployed on the Relief Fund at that time?—Yes, and the committee was also in debt 500*l.*

153. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] The local funds, along with the funds subscribed by The Queen and the members of the Government in London, amounted altogether to 27,622*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.*?—Yes.

154. Those funds lasted from the month of May 1841 to the 9th of May 1842?—Yes.

155. Your apprehension, from what you have stated, is, that if those funds had been properly administered, both as to the parties to whom they should have been given, and the mode in which they should have been given, they would have lasted a much more considerable time?—That was my decided impression.

156. You have no doubt that instead of the local committee being in debt on the 9th of May, there would have been out of those funds a very large sum in hand?—I think so.

157. It appears that the expenses rose from 154*l.* in one month, as high as 2,600*l.* in another month; and it appears that the number relieved rose from 2,180, with which they commenced, as high as 14,791, which seems to be the largest number on the Relief List?—Yes.

158. You have already stated, that you felt obliged, in entering on a scrutiny, to have a list *nominatim*, and that the effect of that list was to reduce the number to 8,115?—Yes.

159. The expenses to grocers for provisions appear to have been in one month as high as 2,600*l.*; are you aware whether there were any grocers on the General Relief Committee?—There were several.

160. Are you aware what profession or trade Provost Henderson is in?—Provost Henderson is an ironmonger.

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161. Are you aware whether the grocers in Scotland are frequently in the habit of selling spirits?—I have heard that they are.

162. You have perhaps heard that that is a very common practice in the west of Scotland?—I have.

163. Should you suppose that Paisley is an exception to that practice?—I cannot speak to that from my own knowledge, as it respects Paisley.

164. It appears from your evidence, that the operatives were exceedingly desirous that the system of relieving by lines instead of stores should be continued?—They were; perhaps the Committee will allow me to state the different classes of individuals who were opposed to a system of stores. In the first place, there were a very large class of persons whose opposition was highly honourable, who, I believe, opposed it from the best motives, and with respect to whom I have not a word of objection. Their views were, that it would produce degradation in the minds of the operatives, who were very intelligent individuals, and that every thing possible should be done to prevent their habits of life being lowered; you should endeavour, it was argued, to maintain among them a high standard of comfort, and to give them the little luxuries to which they have been accustomed; if you do otherwise, you will degrade them in their own eyes, and when their spirit is once broken they will never be as they were before. These views were entertained by a highly respectable body in the town, against whom I have nothing to say, but that I differed from them.

165. Among that class, did you find many of the clergy?—I did; men whose sincerity in these views I highly respect. Then, secondly, there was a certain section of the class of provision-dealers and grocers of the town, who disliked the system extremely; that was very natural; there was a very large sum expended in the town for grocers' accounts, and complaints were frequently made to me, "if you do this you will make the shop-keepers of the town as badly off as the operatives;" thus involving the admission that they derived the benefit of a profit from money subscribed for the relief of the destitute; that party were very strenuous in their opposition, and I believe it will be found in many of the public meetings, those who took a prominent part in the opposition to the stores were bakers or grocers; with the exception of the clergy, many of the most active were of that class, and their interests were very materially affected, I have no doubt, by the alteration.

166. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Were any of this class themselves members of the Relief Committee?—Yes, several. In the third place, it was exceedingly unpopular with the operatives themselves; it was inevitably unpopular; their diet was modified; there were several thousands of individuals whose diet was modified by those regulations; it was impossible to suppose that it could be otherwise than unpopular with them; in fact, it was intended in some respects to check popular abuses.

167. Lord *Robert Grosvenor.*] You have stated that you did not reduce the allowances to those persons; how could their diet be modified, as they got the whole value at the wholesale prices?—Before, they would probably have some drams, sugar, tobacco, whiskey, and so on.

168. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] What you mean by modifying their diet is, that although a larger proportion of the necessaries of life were given, they had none of those luxuries to which you have referred?—Just so.

169. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] They were obliged to take 3*s.* in the shape of meal, instead of 3*s.* in cash, which they might exchange for 2*s.* in meal and 1*s.* in whiskey?—Yes.

170. *Chairman.*] Had you under your plan any means of preventing the changing of oatmeal and other stores for whiskey and tobacco, and so forth?—None whatever, except that if individuals were detected in it they were to be dismissed from the list.

171. Did you detect any, and dismiss them?—No, practically speaking the weak point in the system is, that it is impossible to prevent their selling some of their provisions for other articles.

172. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Did you use any means for the detection of those abuses?—The clerks were directed to check them, but it was impossible to do that with 8,000 individuals.

173. *Chairman.*] Did the new clerks succeed better than the old in detecting those practices?—I never worked the system with the new clerks; I do not mean, therefore, to say in any way, that the new clerks were more efficient than the old ones; I went on general principles; my opinion regarding the two systems is irrespective

irrespective of the merits of particular individuals; the advantage of having paid clerks under a board of guardians is, that the paid officers are constantly on their trial, and you can at once dismiss an individual if he is not efficient.

174. Were you removed from Paisley before your system was worked out?—I left Paisley before my system was worked out.

175. Did you leave Paisley sooner than you expected?—I did in one sense, but not in another; when I received the instructions to re-organize the Relief Committee, I considered that when that new committee was fully in operation I was to leave Paisley. From the time of my receiving the letter dated the 4th of June, requesting me to re-organize the new committee, I considered I had only to wait there till that new committee was formed; and from the receipt of that letter, I expected to leave in a fortnight or three weeks, or sooner, in fact, than I did leave.

176. Mr. *Acland.*] You left Paisley on the 20th of June?—My management continued up to that date; I left subsequently to that date.

177. Mr. *Young.*] The whole of the funds placed at your disposal for distribution at Paisley were applicable to the relief of persons who had no settlement, as well as those who had a settlement?—There was no distinction, to the best of my belief, as to settlement or no settlement.

178. Was the only test that of being an unemployed operative?—Yes, I think so.

179. While you remained in Paisley did any question arise as to the exclusion of any portion of those unemployed operatives?—Not whether they had a settlement or not. There would be a great deal I should have to go into as to the line of relief drawn; but with respect to this particular point of settlement, the settlement did not interfere one way or another.

180. Was the question raised of excluding the Irish from relief, while you were there?—It was not.

181. Can you state, of your own knowledge, what is supposed to confer a settlement in Scotland?—As I understand it, "haunting" and "resorting to" any parish for three years, without begging or receiving parochial relief.

182. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] What is called three years' industrial residence?—I have often heard the expression "industrial;" but I think a person might be in the receipt of private charity, and yet gain a settlement by residing in a town. I apprehend it is not absolutely necessary that the residence should be industrial, provided the person has not begged or obtained parochial relief, whatever other charitable aid he may have received.

183-4. Do you mean that an unemployed operative arriving in Paisley a week before the distribution of this money, would have the same claim as those who had resided there six years before?—I think they would not make a distinction about that; that they would not have made a distinction as to settlement; that they would have taken each case on its own merits. I think they would have considered whether a person was a Paisley operative, but that they would not have considered the question of settlement.

185. But the making out the lists would have remained with the clerks, who were not persons likely to scrutinize very carefully?—I am very anxious not to convey any reflection against the clerks; I believe they were very intelligent individuals, and they would do their duty as well as any other individuals under the same circumstances.

186. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You are understood to say, that the class from which they were chosen, was a class from which, on general grounds, you could not expect the stringent inquiries that the case called for?—Just so.

187. *Chairman.*] Will you refer to the schedule you have put in, and state whether the residence of the parties did not form a special question, before they were admissible to the fund?—Yes; one of the questions was, "A native of what place? How long resident in the town? Place of abode, number and street?" I never understood that there was any extreme strictness in any general rule laid down, as resulting from those questions.

188. Mr. *Stewart.*] When you allude to three years' residence, you mean that the parties are entitled to parochial relief?—Yes, precisely so.

189. You do not mean that that is requisite to entitle them to this relief?—No.

190. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You have no reason to believe that parties coming into Paisley in July 1841, hearing that there was relief in Paisley, would have been refused relief in March or April 1842?—I have reason to believe they would have been refused.

*E. T. B. Twisleton, Esq.*

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190 (*a.*) Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Did parties come to Paisley from other districts, attracted by the relief given at Paisley?—There were many conflicting statements upon that subject; assertions were often strenuously made that unemployed operatives from other districts flocked to Paisley, and obtained a maintenance there from the Relief Fund; but such assertions were as strenuously contradicted; and it was stated that accurate inquiries had been made upon that point, and that the allegations could not be substantiated.

191. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Your impression is, that in those cases the decision that would have been come to would have been come to upon the particular case?—Yes, that is my impression.

192. It was not that any strict rule was made as to length of residence?—That is my impression.

193. Does the second item in the account delivered in by you (page 19 of Minutes of Evidence of 17 February), of 4,715*l.*, transmitted by the London Committee, apply to the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—It does not; I believe it to have been a separate voluntary subscription in London.

Mr. *Robert Wilson*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *Robert Wilson.*

194. *Chairman.*] YOU are secretary to the Relief Committee in Paisley, are you not?—I am.

195. And town-clerk of Paisley?—I am one of the town-clerks.

196. Have you been secretary to the different Relief Committees in Paisley since the commencement of the present distress, in June 1841?—Yes.

197. Have you kept the minute books and account books of those committees from that time to the present?—Yes.

198. In consequence of a letter addressed by the Chairman of this Committee to you, have you brought the several books with you referring to the proceedings of those committees?—I have, and have prepared a list of them; in that list is included two minute books; of course I cannot part with them, but shall be able to refer to them, if called upon.

199. Are any papers enumerated in the inventory which you cannot part with?—Numbers 6 and 7, being the two minute books of the Relief Committee.

200. Will you deliver in the papers referred to by you, with the exception of Nos. 6 and 7?——

[*The Witness delivered in the Papers referred to by him, with an Inventory thereof.*]

201. Does the copy of the correspondence between the Manufacturers' Relief Committee and the Local Relief Committee of Paisley include the whole correspondence which has taken place?—Yes, with the exception of a few formal letters, transmitting money, containing no statement whatever, merely transmitting bank post bills for certain amounts; I did not feel it necessary to copy all those formal letters.

202. The Committee understand that all the important official papers are contained in the copies you have delivered in?—Yes.

203. Have you had personally much intercourse with the distressed people in Paisley?—No; my connexion with the matter was merely as secretary, attending the meetings; I did not come personally into contact with the people, and cannot speak to their state from my own knowledge.

204. Is it within your knowledge, that up to a certain period there were no distinctions made between the destitute from any country being supplied from the Relief Fund?—It is.

205. Can you state to the Committee when a distinction was drawn between the people belonging to the different countries of England, Ireland and Scotland, if any such was drawn?—The first resolution of that nature was upon the 13th of December 1841, when it was resolved to make exertions to send the Irish people home; the minute is in these terms: "Further, that measures be taken for getting quit of claimants, natives of Ireland, who have not obtained legal settlements in this country, and for that purpose to pay their passages to Ireland, and see them shipped off, with a suitable supply of bread given them for the voyage." The meeting remitted those resolutions to the Working Committee, to see them carried into effect.

206. Had there been at that time any monies received from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London?—No; there was a special committee in London for subscriptions for Paisley, and I believe they did get a sum from that committee.

mittee. The next minute on the subject of the Irish, was on the 6th of January 1843; "The following return of the Irish heads of families on the funds was read, and ordered to be engrossed: 'Return of the number of Irish heads of families, men, widows and deserted wives, and destitute young females on the Relief Fund:—Females resident under five years, 19; from five to seven, 50; seven and upward, 316; total, 385: Males resident under five years, 4; five to seven, 6; seven and upwards, 222: People on the list, but their residences not found, 12; total, 224; gross number, 629.'" On the same date it was moved, "That all the Irish and their families who have not been more than ten years resident in Paisley be struck off the list from and after Tuesday the 17th current, and this because they have not so strong a claim upon us as our own countrymen, and because it is understood that in Ireland, if destitute, they will be entitled to support under the Irish poor law, which our own able-bodied poor are not in Scotland." It was moved as an amendment, "That the Irish be retained on the list as formerly." The motion and amendment being put to the vote, the motion was carried by a majority of 10 to 6; intimation of the above resolution was ordered to be given to all concerned. It was agreed that those Irish who are to be struck off, shall receive their next week's allowance in cash if required; leaving it to Bailie Murray to order the allowance to be paid as early in the week as he may think proper." I may mention that this last resolution was, that the Irish people might be enabled, with the sum they would receive their weekly allowance for, to go to Ireland; that it might assist them in paying their passages.

207. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The 629 are the heads of families?—Yes.

208. The 629 does not include the whole number of Irish affected by that vote?—No; it does not include their dependents.

209. Have you any knowledge of the number of dependents?—No; I have a return of the numbers struck off, including the dependents, but I cannot tell how many would have come within the resolution, if applied to the whole Irish on the fund.

210. *Chairman.*] Will your books show the number of dependents?—Yes; that could be ascertained by an investigation.

211. Have you books in London to enable you to do so?—No.

212. Can you, when you return, transmit to the Committee, if directed, such a list?—I can.

213. Mr. *Stewart.*] How was that resolution communicated to the parties most deeply interested in it?—By the visitors and clerks having the charge of paying the parties. When they came for their week's allowances they were told that hereafter they would receive nothing more.

214. *Chairman.*] What do you mean by the word "visitors"?—There are certain visitors on the Relief Committee, who go through the different districts of the town, and ascertain the unemployed parties, and pay them their week's allowances.

215. Do they pay them in their own homes?—The females are paid at their homes.

216. Mr. *Acland.*] Are those paid officers?—Yes; they are part of the unemployed; the visitors and clerks are all paid.

217. Mr. *Smollett.*] How many visitors may there be?—There are five visitors; the number of clerks varies.

218. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Are they all selected from the unemployed?—When Mr. Twisleton came a new system was entered into altogether; he got five persons appointed who were not of the unemployed; four of those still remain; but lately we have got additional visitors, in order to find out impositions; those are taken from the unemployed; the clerks are all from the unemployed.

219. Were there not five clerks appointed in Mr. Twisleton's time who were not of the unemployed?—We called them visitors.

220. Mr. *Hastie.*] The clerks took an account of the money given, and the visitors went to see that the parties who received the relief were really in a condition to require it?—Yes.

221. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Mr. Twisleton appointed five persons, not from the unemployed, to perform particular duties?—Yes; four out of those five still continue in the same office, and perform the same duties.

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222. What are the duties of the clerks, and what are the duties of the visitors?—There are a certain number of clerks kept in a room near to which I am, who keep all the items of payment to the unemployed, the numbers of them, and all the men upon the list are paid by those clerks. There is another class—the females; they do not appear at our rooms at all, but are visited by those five visitors who were appointed by Mr. Twisleton, at their respective dwelling-places, and tickets of relief given to them. The duty of those visitors is to go from house to house, and to see whether the females have got employment; if not, they get their relief as formerly. Those visitors appointed by Mr. Twisleton take no charge of the male department; they are entirely confined to the females. When any particular case occurs among the males, it is remitted to one of those visitors to go and scrutinize, and find out whether there is any imposition. A great many impositions were suspected, and five additional visitors were recently appointed, for the purpose of inspecting the male cases, going to their houses, and ascertaining whether they were imposing on the fund.

223. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] During the time of Mr. Twisleton, who took the part the clerks now take of writing in the room?—The clerks. They are not the same men, but the same class.

224. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The clerks have no discretionary power; they have no power to award relief?—There are various resolutions on that subject. I understand that at one period some of them did use a little discretionary power; but there are various resolutions on the books, stating that no person should be admitted on the roll without having been sanctioned by the Committee of Scrutiny, part of the Relief Committee.

225. You have stated that the resolution of the Committee which you have read was carried by ten to six; what was the number of that committee?—That committee consisted originally of twenty, but I think there were two vacancies, so that I should think the committee at that time consisted of 18.

226. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Will you refer to the book, and state whether there were not 17 present upon that occasion?—There were 16 present.

227. It has been stated that the population of Paisley is 48,416, according to the Parliamentary return; have you any means of stating what was the proportion of Irish in that number on the 6th of January 1843?—I observe, from the census of the population—the Parliamentary census—the proportion of Irish in Paisley was 5,124, that is, on the 6th of June 1841.

228. Have you any reason to believe that that number, or the proportion, was materially altered between the 6th of June 1841 and the 6th of January 1843?—I should think not.

229. Assuming that a large majority of the Irish in Paisley is of the class called operatives, can you state to the Committee what has been their general line of employment?—I should think that most of the male heads of families of the Irish are labourers—out-door labourers. Their families are generally employed, I should think, in the cotton factories about the town.

230. Are you aware whether there has been a general system of advertising at any period for the introduction into Paisley of operatives of any and of what class?—I am not aware of that.

231. Have you reason to think that the great body of Irish now or lately in Paisley, emigrated there on the general principle of seeking employment, without any specific encouragement to expect such employment in consequence of advertisements?—I should think so; but on these facts I do not like to give any positive opinion.

232. Was there any distinction drawn in the committee, with the exception of that you have stated, as to the different claims of the Irish poor or the English poor?—None, except what I have already stated; none as to the English.

233. So far as you know the relative claims of the two classes, do they, or do they not, stand on precisely the same ground?—Precisely.

234. Any regulation therefore which excluded the Irish poor, on the ground that they also were assumed to have a settlement in their own country, and a right of relief, would be equally applicable, in your judgment, to the English poor, who have a settlement and a right of relief?—Yes.

235. Did it ever occur to the committee at Paisley to extend this exclusion to any other class of the distressed?—There was no other proposition to that effect.

236. What are the numbers of the English, so far as you know?—I have no return of them, but I should think very few.

237. In point of fact, the resolution excluding the Irish, was an exclusion of those only who came under the class specified in the resolution?—Quite so.

238. That resolution could not practically have been extended to any except the Irish?—Not the resolution itself.

239. There were no other persons except the Irish in a situation to be excluded from the benefit of the relief?—There were a few English; I should think there might be a very few.

240. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] The Irish in Paisley are among that class of the population on whom the distress fell the most severely?—I should think so.

241. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] In any communication which reached you as secretary of the Distress Relief Committee at Paisley, addressed to you by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London, was there any exclusion suggested or required as to any class of men or nation from the relief so to be provided, supposing distress to exist?—None, as to nation; they always impressed upon us that their funds were for the manufacturing population, not for the out-door population.

242. Their fund being provided for the relief of distressed manufacturers in Great Britain?—Yes.

243. With that exception, there was no restriction imposed by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London?—None.

244. They suggested that preference should be given to relief in labour and to relief in stores, rather than in cash?—Yes.

245. *Chairman.*] Does the correspondence you have given in, contain all the instructions which the London Relief Committee gave to you in Paisley?—It contains all our instructions.

246. Mr. *Hastie.*] Are you aware what induced the Paisley Committee to come to the resolution you have read?—The reason for the resolution is embodied in itself; but I believe that another principal reason was, that they had not funds at that period. I observe, from a table I hold in my hand, that the committee were in debt to the extent of 831*l.*, and the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, to whom they principally looked for support, had limited their grants to 200*l.* per week.

247. What is the date of that?—The 6th of January; our expenditure, at that time, was upwards of 400*l.* a week.

248. You have stated that the amount required for the relief of the distressed, including Irish, was 400*l.* a week, and the sum received weekly from the London Relief Committee was 200*l.*; had you any other sources from which the amount can be made up?—At that time, or rather previous to that time, the county of Renfrew had agreed to assess themselves in a certain sum, and had voted the sum of 1,200*l.* to Paisley; that was the only other source, with any other subscriptions we might raise in the town ourselves.

249. Mr. *Stewart.*] Did the vote of the county go to relieve the Relief Committee from the debt of 800*l.*?—Partly; there was part of that money got before that time, and part of it subsequently. Notwithstanding the vote of the county, a debt always continued, and is, at the date of this return, the 7th of February, 505*l.*

250. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Can you tell the time at which the 500*l.* was received from the county by the Paisley Committee?—It was received at various periods; the county held a meeting on the 30th of November 1842, at which they voted 360*l.*, in addition to a previous grant of 300*l.*, of which 60*l.* was to go to the relief of the villages; since that time, they have voted and paid us sums making up 1,200*l.*; including those votes of the 30th of November, the amount has been 1,200*l.*

251. At that time your expenditure was 400*l.* a week?—Yes, on the 6th of January, when the Irish were struck off.

252. Did you receive the 900*l.* you received from the county, subsequent to the 30th of November?—No; part of it has been received since.

253. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Was that vote of the County Committee accompanied with any restrictions as to the class to whom the money should be paid?—None.

254. They understood that it would be applied generally to the relief of the unemployed

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unemployed in Paisley, whether Irish or Scotch?—I do not know any thing of their understanding; it was granted without any restriction.

255. Mr. *Stewart.*] How much did the county assess themselves at that meeting?—Three thousand pounds; but that was to include the towns of Greenock and Paisley; Greenock excluded itself, and Paisley refused to lay on a part of the assessment, having entered into a subscription; Paisley and Greenock form a third of the county, so that the county assessed itself 2,000*l.*

256. It was on the credit of the county that 1,200*l.* was voted for the relief of the distress in Paisley?—Yes.

257. Was it not calculated that there was an existing debt of 1,000*l.*, which was to be first paid off?—Yes, it was.

258. So that that left the Relief Committee out of debt on the 30th of November?—They never got out of debt; for the money payments were always more than the receipts.

259. The vote of the county virtually cleared them of the 800*l.* debt?—Yes; if it had been applied exclusively to the payment of the debt.

260. What proportion of the 400*l.* paid weekly was applicable to the Irish, who were then separated by the resolution of the Committee?—I cannot say.

261. Mr. *Hastie.*] What amount of the county subscription was unappropriated or in hand at the time this resolution of the 6th of January was come to?—I could not state that without looking through the treasurer's books.

262. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] What was the amount of debt upon the Relief Committee on the 30th of November?—Four hundred and thirty-eight pounds.

263. On the 6th of January you state it to have been above 800*l.*?—Yes; I beg to state that there was a subsequent resolution that the funds should be equally divided among all and sundry.

264. What money was received weekly at the period referred to from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London?—Upon the 30th of November the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee transmitted a letter to the Paisley Committee, stating that their future grants must from that date be limited to 200*l.* per week, and that that sum was more than the proportion allowed to other places for the relief of their strictly manufacturing poor; and to that resolution they have adhered.

265. About five weeks elapsed between the 30th of November and the 6th of January?—Yes.

266. Therefore the amount received from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in that period was about 1,000*l.*?—Yes.

267. And of the 1,200*l.* received from the county of Renfrew, 900*l.* was received subsequently to the 30th of November?—Yes.

268. Can you state what proportion of that 900*l.* was received between the 30th of November and the 6th of January?—No; I could not state that specifically without looking into the treasurer's books; but I find on the minutes of the 6th of January 1843 the following statement: "The treasurer's statement for the week ending the 3d of January current was produced, from which it appeared that the disbursements for the week were 424*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, and the amount of debt against the committee 831*l.* 11*s.* 7½*d.* The probable state of the funds for the week ending the 10th of January 1843, being the current week, was read; Excess of disbursements, week ending 3d of January 1843, 831*l.*; probable expenditure, week ending the 10th of January 1843, 350*l.*; making 1,181*l.*; sum received from Manufacturers' Committee, London, 200*l.*; sum voted by the county, 700*l.*; subscriptions in the town, estimated at 230*l.*; total, 1,130*l.*; leaving 51*l.* of debt." Then immediately upon that there follows the resolution that the Irish should be struck off from the list.

269. You have stated before that 300*l.* from the 1,200*l.*, for which the county had assessed itself, was received previously to the 30th of November, and there appears to be 700*l.* for which the committee had permission to draw, and that the sum for which the committee had permission to draw upon the London Committee weekly was 200*l.*?—Yes.

270. Will you state what were the weekly disbursements for the relief of the unemployed during those intervening weeks?—I have stated that the disbursements in the week ending the 6th of December were, 519*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*; 13th of December, 479*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; 20th of December, 501*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*; 27th of December, 409*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*; 3d of January, 424*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*

271. What

271. What is the total amount of those five weeks?—£. 2,333. 17 *s.* 11½ *d.*

272. The amount received from extraneous sources appears to have been 1,200 *l.*, and 1,000 *l.* from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, and 200 *l.*, for which the committee drew upon the county?—Yes; but there were other receipts besides; there was a subscription going on in the town.

273. Had you received any other money out of the town during that time?—I cannot say.

274. At all events the Local Relief Committee received from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee and the county 1,200 *l.*?—Yes.

275. The expenses of that time were, 2,333*l.* 17 *s.* 11½ *d.*; therefore the excess of the expenditure over the receipts was 1,133*l.* 17 *s.* 11 *d.*?—Yes; assuming the 1,200 *l.* to have been the whole received extraneously.

276. Your debt, you state, on the 30th of November, was 438 *l.* 14 *s.* 0½ *d.*?—Yes.

277. What was your debt on the 6th of January?—The accounts were not made up on the 6th, but on the 3d it was 831 *l.* 11 *s.* 7 *d.*

278. What was the increased debt which was incurred during that time?—£.392. 17 *s.* 6½ *d.*

279. Deducting that sum from the 1,133*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, will show, in fact, the receipts of the Local Committee during that period from any other sources, except from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, and from the county?—Yes, 741 *l.* 0*s.* 4½ *d.*

280. Therefore the Local Relief Committee of Paisley received from those two sources for the relief of the unemployed in Paisley, 1,200*l.*, and from all the other sources only 741 *l.* during that period?—Yes.

281. The Committee are to understand that when the county of Renfrew, at a public meeting, came to a vote to assess themselves for the relief of the unemployed, Paisley refused to be a party to that agreement?—Yes, but the reason for that was this: the county clerk transmitted a copy of the resolution of the county regarding the voluntary assessment of 3,000 *l.* to the town council, requesting them to assist in laying on the proportion of the assessment on the town of Paisley. The town council came to a resolution, that it would be much better to go on with the subscription, as they would raise more money by the subscription than by the voluntary assessment; a copy of that minute is included in the papers I have produced.

282. What proportion of that voluntary assessment would have fallen on the town of Paisley?—I understood 500*l.*; and the amount of money raised under the subscription in Paisley alone is 748*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

283. Between what dates?—From the date of that voluntary assessment to the present time, the 7th of February 1843.

284. Can you state what was the amount of the receipts from the town of Paisley during those five weeks?—I am unable to give that, from the documents I have in my possession here; this is the sum total. I have not the weekly receipts with me.

285. What do you mean by a voluntary assessment?—Just really and truly voluntary; the parties may either pay it or not, as they choose. The county say, "We will assess ourselves in a certain sum on our rentals, and you may pay it, or refuse to pay it; there is no law by which the payment of it can be enforced."

286. Mr. *Pringle*.] It is a general subscription, which all agree to subscribe in proportion to the amount of their rentals?—At a meeting of the county, the proprietors of the county present say, "Here is a measure which we propose shall be gone into, that all the proprietors in the county shall pay in proportion to their rental, in lands and houses;" of course part of them do pay, and others do not pay.

287. Mr. *Manners Sutton*.] That was in addition to all other legal charges, all other parochial assessments?—Of course.

288. Is this sum you have stated as having been received from Paisley in the way of voluntary contribution, in addition to all the parochial charges?—It is.

289. Lord *Robert Grosvenor*.] Was all the property in the county assessed, and did somebody go about to collect, or was only the property assessed of those who stated that they were willing to be assessed?—The collector of the county allocated the assessment on all the proprietors, and sent them notice at how much they had been assessed in this voluntary assessment, and requested payment.

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290. Then the collector went round, and those who were willing to pay did pay?—Yes.

291. Mr. *Pringle.*] Have you the means of knowing whether any did refuse to pay?—I cannot say, of my own knowledge.

292. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The towns of Paisley and Greenock did refuse?—Yes, on the ground I have stated.

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*Jovis, 23° die Februarii,* 1843.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---|---|
| Sir R. H. Inglis. | Mr. Horsman. |
| Mr. Manners Sutton. | Mr. Colquhoun. |
| Mr. Pringle. | Mr. P. M. Stewart. |
| Mr. Duncan. | Mr. Young. |
| Mr. Hastie. | Mr. Acland. |
| Lord Robert Grosvenor. | Mr. Smollett. |

ROBERT WALLACE, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Robert Wilson*; further Examined.

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293. *Chairman.*] WILL you give a narrative of the distress in Paisley, so far as you know, by having been secretary to the Relief Committee of the town, confining yourself to facts which came within your own knowledge?—The distress began in the month of May 1841; I have already given in to the Committee a statement of the gradual rise and fall of the numbers.

294. State to the Committee the progress of the distress from May 1841 until the time of Mr. Twisleton's arrival in March 1842, and the measures taken by the Paisley Relief Committee?—A meeting of the inhabitants of Paisley was held upon the 29th of June 1841, for the purpose of entering into measures to procure funds for the relief of the distressed unemployed. At that meeting a Relief Committee was formed, consisting of 29 individuals taken from the inhabitants generally, and the clergymen of the town of all denominations, being about 25 in number. At this meeting it was resolved to raise a voluntary assessment of 25 per cent. upon the rental of the town, and that assessment was imposed, but was not fully realized, many having declined to pay. Subscriptions were also got up in the town. The first statement of the numbers on the Relief List made up is upon the 7th of July 1841; and the number at that date is 2,180; the number gradually increased, until the 11th of February 1842, when it amounted to 14,791; the number then fell off, and decreased until the 4th of October 1842, when it amounted to 5,989; it again increased up to the 27th of December 1842, the number at that time being 11,885; it then began to decrease, and has continued decreasing till the present time, the number on the 14th of February being 6,332. I may also mention, that various measures were adopted for the purpose of raising funds. A meeting of the county of Renfrew was held on the 26th of August 1841, and a subscription entered into, and an addition made from the county gentlemen to the Relief Committee. In the month of October following, a deputation was sent to London for the purpose of raising money. A committee was formed in London, and subscriptions commenced, and the sum of 4,914*l.* was raised. A committee was also formed in the city of Edinburgh, in the month of October 1841, for the purpose of raising subscriptions, and the sum of 2,410*l.* was received. In the same month a committee was formed in Glasgow, and the sum of 1,296*l.* was raised. A second meeting of the county of Renfrew was held on the 3d of March 1842, and a second subscription entered into; and as I have already stated in my former examination, a third meeting of the county was held in the month of November 1842, when the county resolved to assess itself to the extent of 3,000*l.* Measures were also adopted by the committee for raising funds throughout England and Scotland generally; and, in particular, a committee, consisting of the clergymen of the town, issued an address to all the congregations thoughout Scotland, and the sum of 4,670*l.* was raised under their auspices. The Relief Committee, formed in the month of June 1841, continued its operations until the month of May 1842, when Mr. Twisleton took the direction of superintending the

the relief of the distressed unemployed, which he continued to do until the 13th of June 1842, when the management devolved upon a committee of 20, appointed in accordance with the following minute of the Paisley Relief Committee of the 13th of June 1842: "Mr. Twisleton, the Government commissioner, stated, that the temporary interference of the Government for the relief of the unemployed at Paisley was now at an end, and that the administration of the relief had now devolved upon the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, through the medium of a local committee to be appointed for that purpose; that he had been requested by the London committee to organize a local committee for Paisley; that he thought the present committee was too large, and that a committee of 20 persons would be sufficient; he had therefore resolved to consolidate the Store and Labour Committees, and that those committees, with the provost and magistrates of Paisley, making in the whole 14, should form part of the committee of 20, and that those persons should elect the other six, and thus complete the requisite number;" and the management under this committee, so constituted, continues to the present time.

295. Can you state to the Committee whether Mr. Twisleton was present at the time at which that minute was framed?—He was.

296. Is it your belief that Mr. Twisleton was perfectly cognizant of the terms of that minute?—Yes.

297. Was it shown to him?—Yes.

298. What modes of relief were adopted by the local committee in Paisley?—The mode of giving relief to the unemployed was by means of provisions; and upon the 15th of September 1841, the Relief Committee resolved that the supplies of provisions to the unemployed should be strictly confined to meal, potatoes and bread; these provisions were given by the various grocers or dealers in provisions in the town by means of orders issued by the Relief Committee. On the 22d of November a proposition was made in the Relief Committee to abolish those provision orders, and to have provisions purchased by the Relief Committee and distributed by the committee. Various motions were made on this subject, which gave rise to much discussion in the committee; on the 13th of December 1841, the following motion was made upon this subject:—"That the present mode of distributing subsistence in provisions be altered, and that henceforth the whole distributions shall be made from store kitchens in meal and potatoes bought wholesale, or in soup, so as to render the distributions not only more economical, but less liable to abuse than the present mode of giving orders upon grocers and victuallers for necessaries." That motion was not carried; the consideration of it was adjourned.

299. What number of the committee were present?—Twenty-three; on the 29th of December the motion was renewed, and negatived; it was again renewed on the 7th of February 1842, and a division took place, by which the motion was again negatived.

300. Can you state the numbers?—The numbers on the division are not given, but there were 29 members present at the meeting. The motion was renewed again on the 24th of March, and by a large majority delayed. On the 31st of March, the motion was renewed in the following terms: "Moved, That the committee do now resolve to abolish the present system of giving orders by tickets on grocers for provisions, and to employ the weekly subscriptions to the Relief Fund in purchasing, by tender and open contract, wheaten bread, oatmeal or oatmeal cakes, and potatoes, and to give them out from stores, in return for all work done in the employment of this committee, to women and persons unable to work," —which motion was seconded; an amendment was proposed to delay the consideration of the motion; another amendment was proposed in the following terms: "That the committee having heard the statement of Mr. Twisleton, intimating the strong wish and desire of the members of Her Majesty's Government, who have subscribed to the Relief Fund, that the system of supplying persons on the Relief Fund from stores should be adopted, instead of relieving, as at present, by grocers' orders; Resolve, in compliance with that wish, to abolish the present system of giving tickets on grocers for provisions, and to employ the pecuniary subscriptions to the Relief Fund to purchase, by tender and open contract, wheaten bread, oatmeal or oatmeal cakes, potatoes, coals and salt, and to give them out from stores in return for all work done in the employment of this committee; and authorize the visitors, if the parties wish it, to give them orders on the soup kitchens, either for the whole or part of their supply; and in all cases of urgent and extreme

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extreme necessity to provide such other sustenance as the circumstances of the parties may demand, certified by medical testimony, as necessary in consequence of bad health, or any peculiarity of constitution." This last amendment was carried by a large majority, and the store system was consequently established. Then, on the 11th of April, a motion to the following effect was proposed: "That the committee, on reconsideration, find that the adoption of stores is inexpedient; that the articles already contracted for by the committee, if any, be appropriated by the soup kitchens; that application be made to Her Majesty's Government, for remission of duty on all provisions to be used at these kitchens; that the Spitalfields plan be immediately adopted; and that the plan of paying by lines shall be continued as hitherto." The consideration of the motion and a negative amendment was adjourned. At the same meeting, and at a subsequent stage of the proceedings, it was proposed and agreed to, that the foregoing adjournment should be departed from, and that the motion and the negative amendment should be put to the vote; and the vote being put accordingly, the motion was negatived by a majority.

301. Thus leaving the store system established?—Yes; upon the 18th of April a motion was made, "That the committee do proceed to discuss the motion made at the previous meeting, as to the propriety of abandoning the system of stores." A negative amendment having been proposed, was carried by a large majority. Upon the 11th of July a motion was proposed and carried, "That one-third of the allowances to the able-bodied should be paid in cash." On the 18th of July the Relief Committee ordered, in the terms of instructions from the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, that henceforth one-fifth of the allowance should be given in cash, and that this resolution should be acted upon immediately.

302. Mr. *Duncan.*] Was that to the able-bodied only, or to all?—There is no distinction made as to class.

303. Mr. *Smollett.*] That mode has been continued ever since?—Yes; in addition to the relief by means of orders upon grocers originally, and subsequently from stores, soup kitchens were established in the town about the month of October 1841, and continued until Mr. Twisleton's management, when they were abolished; and some time after the new committee formed under the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee came into operation, the soup kitchens were re-organized, and continue till the present time. Various measures were also adopted for giving relief to the destitute, by means of furnishing them with clothing, and the Relief Committee adopted various resolutions for the purpose of supplying the unemployed with labour. On the 29th of June 1841, it was agreed that suitable labour should be provided for the unemployed, and various resolutions were afterwards adopted on this subject; but I may state that great difficulty existed in procuring labour, the numbers on the list being so large, and the labour got was quite unproductive, indeed was attended with considerable expense. At a subsequent period the Relief Committee advertized to give the services of the unemployed to farmers and others, allowing a premium to any who should take their services, but, with trifling exceptions, we could get no person to take them. I may also mention that a Labour Committee was appointed by the county of Renfrew for the unemployed in Paisley, and managed by them; but as to this I can give no information.

304. Did that refer to agricultural labourers?—Yes; a manufacturing association was also established in the town, and a fund raised for the purpose of giving employment to weavers at their own kind of labour; a considerable number of the weavers were thus employed; it appears from the statement which I have already produced that the loss to this association from so employing the weavers was 1,371*l.* 16*s.*

305. Can you state in what period?—I cannot; it commenced, I think, in the latter end of 1841, and continued until some date in the year following.

306. *Chairman.*] Will you proceed to state by what means the numbers were reduced by striking off the lists occasionally, and the classes struck off?—Committees were appointed by the Relief Committee out of their own body from time to time, to scrutinize the applications given in by the distressed unemployed, and also to revise the lists from time to time of those who were in the receipt of relief; those scrutinies took place with the assistance of certain clerks and visitors composed chiefly of the unemployed themselves; it was not my duty to attend those scrutinies, and I can give no information on the subject of their proceedings.

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307. Will you proceed to state what you know with regard to the removal from the lists of the unemployed of certain classes, and state what those classes were?—On the 5th of July 1842, it was unanimously ordered by the Relief Committee, that single men on the list should have their allowance suspended, leaving it to those of them who did not belong to families already on the supply to take out new schedules of application; on the 18th of August the Relief Committee at a meeting deferred the consideration of the question whether or not single men having no dependents, and being under 40 years of age, should be put off the list till the next meeting, but ordered that the clerks and visitors and superintendents of work give notice to all the men that the question is under consideration, and that they ought not to rely on continuing on the supply. On the 26th of August a motion to the above effect was proposed, and was negatived; on the 12th of September 1842, all the single men on the list under 40 years of age, and having no dependents, were struck off; on the 14th of December following the Relief Committee resolved, "That all single men of 16 years of age and upwards, at work in the quarry, should be struck off, and left to their own resources;" and upon the 6th of January 1843, it was resolved, "That all the men who were on the fund prior to January 1842, and continuously to this time, be struck off the list, but that their families be supplied with soup, if found deserving." At the same meeting it was resolved, "That all the Irish and their families, who have not been more than 10 years resident in Paisley, be struck off the list from and after Tuesday the 17th current; and this because they have not so strong a claim upon us as our own countrymen, and because it is understood that in Ireland, if destitute, they will be entitled to support under the Irish Poor Law, which our own able-bodied poor are not in Scotland." The Tables which I have produced, show the numbers struck off under these two last resolutions. Upon the 30th of January the Relief Committee ordered, "That all the twisters, enterers and flower-lashers on the list be struck off from and after Tuesday the 7th of February next." At the same meeting it was resolved, "That all persons upon the list who are receiving relief from the poor's fund be struck off from and after Tuesday the 7th of February next, reserving to those persons to apply again for admission, stating in their schedules any particular circumstances in their case, the amount received from the poor's funds, and from what parish."

308. Mr. *Smollett.*] Did those resolutions come accordingly into operation?—Yes.

309. *Chairman.*] Can you state the number of Irish who were brought under the effect of the resolution to which you have referred?—I can; as I stated on my former examination, the total number of Irish heads of families on the Relief List was 629; the number struck off in consequence of the resolution of the Relief Committee of the date of the 6th of January was 208; but this was not wholly heads of families, but included dependents. The following is a statement of the Irish struck off:—Male heads of families, 12; their wives, 10; dependents, 30; total, 52: Female heads of families, 59; dependents, 97; total, 156: in the whole, 208 struck off.

310. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Can you state the reason why so much larger a proportion of female heads of families were struck off the Relief List than of the male?—I can give no reason why there should be a larger number of female Irish on the list than of male Irish on the list; the striking off depended upon the length of residence; the first statement comprehended all the Irish, however long they might have been in the town; those struck off were only those who had been less than ten years in the town; hence the difference between the two statements.

311. Mr. *Young.*] In striking those people off, reference was made, in your opinion, only to the length of residence, and not to the merits of any particular case?—It was.

312. Mr. *Hastie.*] The Committee are to understand that the whole of the Irish struck off by that resolution of the committee, amounted only to 208 individuals?—Exactly; that number including the dependents.

313. *Chairman.*] Did the magistrates and town council protest against striking off those different bodies of Irish and others, to which you have referred?—The subject of striking off classes from the Relief Fund, and also the refusal to admit new applicants to the list, was brought under the consideration of the magistrates of Paisley, at a meeting of the magistrates on the 9th of January 1843, when they resolved, "To recommend to the Relief Committee to relieve such of the applicants as might be found deserving; and further, that if sufficient funds were not at the disposal of the committee to pay the usual allowances, that the committee

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mittee should make an equal division of what funds may be in hand, or which can be procured, among all the destitute in the town."

314. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Were those magistrates ex officio members of the Relief Committee?—They were all members ex officio of the Relief Committee; but immediately previous to this resolution I have read, the provost had resigned being one of the Relief Committee.

315. But the other magistrates were members of the committee?—They were.

316. And they still are so?—Yes.

317. No resolution was come to by the Relief Committee for displacing any magistrate whatever from its body?—None.

318. But Provost Henderson voluntarily resigned his situation?—He did.

319. *Chairman.*] Can you state to the Committee whether there were any subscriptions from Ireland sent for the relief of the destitute in Paisley?—I can; as appears from the statement of monies received already produced by me, 500*l.* was received from Ireland in aid of the distressed in Paisley.

320. Can you state to the Committee whether there were any conditions annexed to the receipt of that money so sent from Ireland, contained in any correspondence which may have taken place with the authorities in Paisley?—There were no conditions attached that I am aware of; but from a correspondence which took place between Mr. Henry Porter, of Tandragee Castle, in the county of Armagh, Ireland, through whom the subscriptions were transmitted, and the chairman of the Relief Committee, I am aware that this money was transmitted, knowing that a large number of Irish were in Paisley. I produce to the Committee a circular issued by Mr. Porter, in Ireland, in the month of January 1842, in which, among other things, he states that it has been ascertained that the Irish population of Paisley amounts to 4,000, the great majority of whom are suffering with the other operatives, and he calls on the Irish, in the circulars, to contribute to the funds. I may state also, that I have other letters from Mr. Porter on the same subject, which, if necessary, can be produced.

321. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You have no letter from him subsequent to the resolution of January 1843?—None.

322. *Chairman.*] In your capacity of town clerk as well as secretary to the Relief Committee of Paisley, does it consist with your knowledge that the distress has lately increased so much as to produce a considerable augmentation of public begging in Paisley?—For more than a twelvemonth back the public begging has been very much increased in Paisley.

323. Has public begging been authorized in an unusual manner of late in Paisley; please to look at the petition now shown to you, with the subscriptions, and state whether you can verify those or any of them?—The petition put into my hands is one addressed to the merchants, ministers and other influential inhabitants of Paisley, on behalf of 60 heads of families, setting forth, "that in consequence of the Relief Committee denying them any further supply, owing, as they say, to the funds being exhausted, they are therefore painfully compelled to solicit the aid of their more wealthy neighbours, in order to save themselves and their languishing families from dying by actual starvation;" signed, William Crawford, chairman; dated 9th January 1843. Subscriptions are attached to this petition as follows: John Henderson, provost of Paisley, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Alexander Campbell, sheriff substitute, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Robert Burns (which means the Rev. Dr. Burns), 2*s.* 6*d.* Appended to that petition is a certificate by myself, as town clerk, in the following words: "I certify that the above petition has been approved of by Sheriff Campbell, Bailie Murray, the Rev. Dr. Burns, and other influential persons, inasmuch as they have adhibited their names and subscriptions to a similar petition;" which certificate is dated the 9th of January 1843.

324. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Did you affix your signature to that by the directions of any one?—A similar petition to the one which I have now read was brought to me by two of the unemployed of the town, with a message from the sheriff, resident at Paisley, that I should certify, that he and others had given subscriptions; this, as I subsequently learned, was in consequence of the unemployed wishing the sheriff and others to subscribe a number of petitions of the same import; but the sheriff thought it better that in place of himself and the other gentlemen subscribing all the petitions, a public individual, such as myself, should give a certificate to that effect, and which I accordingly did.

325. With regard to that particular petition, did you affix your certificate in accordance

accordance with the directions of any one, and if so, of whom?—I have already stated, that a message was brought to me from the sheriff, requesting that I should do so, and understanding that message to be correct, I accordingly gave the certificate.

326. Is that the signature of Sheriff Campbell?—It is not; but the petition that was presented to me bore the signature of Sheriff Campbell; there were duplicates made by the parties.

327. Is that your signature to the certificate?—It is; the signature of the provost is in his own handwriting, but the signatures of the sheriff and of Dr. Burns are copies.

328. Did you affix your signature to that by the directions of any one, and if so, of whom?—I did, in consequence of a message received from Sheriff Campbell.

329. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You understood, that in affixing your certificate to that, you were following the directions of Sheriff Campbell?—I did.

330. *Chairman.*] Has any fault been found with you by Sheriff Campbell or the provost since, in consequence of your having done that?—No.

331. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Has Sheriff Campbell given you to understand, that you did not correctly interpret his wishes?—Yes; he has stated since, that he did not wish that his signature should be hawked through the town in the way it was done.

332. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Your authority was a verbal message, communicated to you by the parties who were carrying about that petition?—Yes.

333. Mr. *Hastie.*] Did the sheriff say to you that he had not authorized those persons to come and request you to do that?—No, he did not.

334. *Chairman.*] You state that the sheriff's signature was to the petition you first saw?—It was.

335. From that you concluded that the message delivered to you was a just message, and such as you should comply with?—Yes.

336. Mr. *Hastie.*] The Committee are to understand, that the sheriff, the provost and Dr. Burns originally signed a document countenancing the begging of those persons throughout the town?—Yes.

337. Are the Committee to understand that the parties who received that paper, finding one paper would be very inconvenient for the mass about to beg, went to the sheriff to ask him to sign four or five different petitions of a similar nature, which he refused, but that he sent them to the town clerk, who should certify that he had appended his signature to a similar petition?—Yes, that is correct.

338. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] This petition is signed by a person of the name of William Crawford, and the signatures of Alexander Campbell and of Robert Burns are names attached to particular sums which have been given to the petitioners?—Yes.

339. Your certificate is in these terms: "I certify that the above petition has been approved of by Sheriff Campbell, Bailie Murray, the Rev. Dr. Burns, and other influential persons, inasmuch as they have adhibited their names and subscriptions to a similar petition"?—Yes.

340. In what manner did they adhibit their names?—By their own handwriting.

341. In a similar manner to that in which Provost Henderson has attached his name to this petition?—Yes, by putting down their names and subscriptions.

342. Do you consider that any person who has subscribed a small sum on a petition for the relief of an individual, approves of the petition, and that by having so adhibited his name, he sanctions public begging?—I do not mean to say that a party by giving a subscription to a petition similar to that produced, approves of the wording of that petition; but certainly if he gives a subscription, he approves of the object of the petition.

343. Do you consider that a person by giving a small sum to an applicant for relief, and by affixing his name, not to the prayer of the petition, but merely to the sum he has so given, renders himself responsible for the system of begging which may be carried on by that petitioner?—Not responsible, certainly.

344. Do you conceive that he approves of any system of public begging which may be so carried on; that he sanctions it?—I would hold that if a man subscribes to a public petition, such as that produced, he does so on the understanding that other people are going to do the same thing; it is a public document; it then becomes a species of public begging; there is no doubt of that.

345. You consider that a man who affixes his name to a sum of money he may have given to a petitioner, affixes his name to the petition?—He has affixed his name to the petition.

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346. You consider that a man merely putting down his name to the sum he gives to the petitioner affixes his name to the petition?—The subscribers do not subscribe the petition; they merely subscribe for the relief of the individuals.

347. Do you consider that a gentleman putting down his name opposite to the sum of money he may have given, affixes his name to the petition?—Their names and subscriptions; I certainly do not consider that those parties adhibiting their names and subscriptions put their names there as petitioners, but they subscribed for the object contained in the petition.

348. What you meant by this certificate was merely that, from your own knowledge, Mr. Campbell and Dr. Burns had subscribed certain sums of money in consequence of having received a similar petition?—Quite so.

349. Do you consider that by so affixing their names, those gentlemen had given a public sanction to the system of public begging, which might have been carried on after they had so affixed their names and subscriptions?—I must say that I think they did.

350. Your certificate is not merely a certificate to prove that Sheriff Campbell and Dr. Burns and Provost Henderson had subscribed a certain sum in consequence of a similar petition, but that it means to say that those individuals, having so affixed their names, sanctioned the public begging which was carried on under it; do you consider that to be the case?—My certificate speaks for itself.

351. Your certificate states that the petition has been approved, and that they had adhibited their names and subscriptions to a similar petition?—Yes.

352. With reference to the question first put to you by the Chairman, whether public begging had lately received any peculiar sanction; do you conceive that the signatures to this petition, and the subscriptions attached to that petition, do give a sanction to public begging?—There is nothing said in the petition about public begging.

353. The question is, what the effect of it was, and what was the object of this certificate?—The object of that certificate, as it bears, was to show that those parties had subscribed sums of money, and that the parties going with the petitions might not be considered as persons coming without an authority.

354. You state that the object of this certificate was to verify the signatures of those gentlemen?—Yes.

355. You also state, that the object of that verification was to prevent the individuals being considered impostors?—Yes.

356. In what manner would they have been considered impostors without your certificate; in what situation would they have been placed?—If they had gone with copies of the petition and mere copies of the signatures, the parties to whom they would apply would have been doubtful whether or not those signatures were genuine, or real and true copies of genuine signatures.

357. At the time they presented this petition would they have been interdicted begging?—That depends entirely upon what a person may conceive to be public begging; if the petitioners were to go from warehouse to warehouse, and from shop to shop, and present this petition and crave assistance, it might or might not be considered public begging; if the doing of that which I now stated is to be conceived public begging, then certainly the subscribers to that petition sanctioned public begging, at least gave countenance to it.

358. The certificate attached by yourself was attached for the purpose of making that sanction to public begging more universally known than it would have been without, supposing that to be public begging?—Supposing that to be public begging, then my certificate went to sanction public begging.

359. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] The effect of your certificate was to verify certain signatures?—Certainly.

360. Those signatures were appended to sums of money subscribed by the various parties?—Yes.

361. Those parties gave their subscriptions in answer to an application from distressed persons in Paisley?—Yes.

362. In giving those subscriptions, those parties, in your conception, accredited the distress and the characters of the parties applying; they considered the distress to be great, and the parties applying to be deserving of relief?—I should think so, if they contributed funds.

363. And all you intended to do, was to make it known in Paisley that the parties who had subscribed their names to certain sums were bonâ fide the persons so represented?—Just so.

364. Sir

364. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Do you, or not, consider that the parties accredited also the statement of the petitioners, signed "William Crawford, chairman," and made themselves, or did not make themselves, responsible for the truth of the allegation, namely, that the funds were exhausted?—I should think that if they subscribed their names and sums, they must have considered that the statement in the petition was accurate.

365. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You consider that the signatures attached to the petition, vouched to a certain degree the responsibility of the persons so signing, for the accuracy of the statement in the petition, but that they did not render them responsible for any subsequent proceedings which the petitioners might take to obtain relief?—I should think not; they should not be bound for subsequent proceedings.

366. *Chairman.*] When you signed this, and now that you have it before you, do you not understand that this document gave the parties authority to proceed through the town of Paisley to ask charity?—I did.

367. Is it not contrary to the law of Scotland, without some such authority, for any persons to beg, either within or without the burgh?—I understand the law to be such.

368. Would not the police in the town, in the discharge of their duty, have been bound to take up those persons, and the police beyond the town, the rural police, have been bound to take them up, if they had found them asking for charity without such a paper?—Yes.

369. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Suppose they had asked for charity in the streets?—The police have not been very strict in taking up beggars, but if they were applying the law strictly, they would be bound to take up any person going about asking charity.

370. Are you to be understood that the object of this application was not with a view to public begging in the streets, but to proceed from house to house, and from warehouse to warehouse, to solicit subscriptions?—There is nothing in the petition to show that; but my decided opinion is, that that was what was intended. I must state, however, in reference to this matter, that the unemployed, after receiving these signatures and that certificate, got the petition and signatures printed, and distributed vast numbers of the printed copies throughout the town and the county, all of which not only the subscribers, but myself, highly disapproved, and immediately took measures to have it discontinued, by inserting paragraphs in the public newspapers; it was never intended that the petition should go further than through the town, to obtain a little temporary relief for the petitioners.

371. Lord *Robert Grosvenor.*] Did you sign many of those copies of the petition?—Five, I think; I never expected the petition to be circulated as it was.

372. Your signature to this petition gave them a legal right to beg, which they would not have had without it?—I am not aware that any person is entitled to give a legal right to beg, but a certificate of that kind would naturally prevent the police officers taking up the parties having such a certificate.

373. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The police officers would abstain from interfering with those persons on account of the certificate attached, and not on account of the signature of the provost, or other persons?—If they had seen the genuine signatures of the provost, the sheriff and others, they would have paid as much or greater respect to them than to mine; but the signatures of those parties were to only one petition; my certificate was put to five.

374. Therefore, in fact, supposing that the consequence of those gentlemen appending their names would have been the public begging of one party, the effect of these certificates attached to five petitions was the giving a sanction to the public begging of five parties?—Certainly, on that assumption.

375. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] The person who signed this petition, named Crawford, is in the habit of signing a number of petitions of emigration societies, is he not?—I have observed the same name to many petitions from the unemployed.

376. What is he?—I do not know; he is one of the unemployed operatives, I believe.

377. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Have there been any proclamations against public begging in Paisley issued by the magistrates?—I think there have been proclamations, but not for some time back.

378. By whom were those proclamations of the magistrates against public begging issued?—The town clerk generally subscribes proclamations.

379. The signature to the proclamation against public begging would have been

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been the same as that attached to this certificate?—Either mine or that of the senior town clerk, Mr. Laing.

380. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You have said, that the Relief Committee originally consisted of 29; if it has been stated to the Committee that the Relief Committee consisted of 100, and that 30 or 40 were in the habit of attending the committee, is that correct?—I have stated that the committee named by the inhabitants on the 29th of June consisted of 29 individuals from the town generally, with the addition of about 25 clergymen. I have stated also, that at a subsequent meeting of the county of Renfrew, they named a certain additional number to the committee to co-operate, and the original committee had power to add to their numbers, and persons were added from time to time, till it amounted to a very large number; I should think close upon 100.

381. How much was collected from the original assessment laid upon Paisley, but the fruits of which were not fully realised?—I cannot give the particulars.

382. How much was collected from the original subscription?—The original subscription and the proceeds of the assessment altogether amounted to 1,227*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* in the town of Paisley.

383. Was that the whole amount which was subscribed in Paisley?—Another subscription was got up more recently.

384. What is the total amount which has been raised in Paisley from the commencement of the distress to the present time?—The amount of direct payments to the Relief Fund from the town of Paisley till the present time is 1,976*l.* 3*s.*, being 1,227*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* between the 10th of June 1841 and the 9th of May 1842, and 748*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* subsequent to that date. In addition to this, many of the merchants and others of the town subscribed to an Agricultural Labour Fund, an Emigration Fund and a Manufacturing Association, and it has been calculated that the sum paid by the inhabitants to those different funds amounted to 964 *l.* 16*s.*

385. Who have made that calculation?—Sheriff Campbell and I have gone over it; subscriptions were raised in the county and the town generally; they have been so amalgamated that it is difficult to separate them, but it is supposed that one-half was raised in the town, and half in the county; the 964*l.* 16*s.* being added to the 1,976*l.* 3*s.*, makes 2,940*l.* 19*s.* contributed by Paisley.

386. What is the amount raised by the county of Renfrew, independently of Paisley?—Between the 10th of June 1841 and the 30th of June 1842 the sums paid in money by the county to the Relief Fund amounted to 2,984*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*; one-half of the sum raised for agricultural labour, emigration and the manufacturing association, 964*l.* 16*s.*; since November 1842, part of the voluntary assessment, 1,202*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, and since the same period, for the Labour Fund, 578*l.*; for the Weaving Fund, 386*l.*; making 964*l.*; the total, 6,115*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* In addition, however, to this, many of the noblemen and gentlemen of the county gave large donations of butchers' meat and vegetables, and all kinds of articles, to the soup kitchens; my Lord Kelburne alone, I am aware, paid upwards of 300*l.* to a butcher at Paisley for meat supplied to the soup kitchens; those donations we cannot estimate, but I should think the contributions of this kind for these purposes would amount to nearly 1,000*l.* The contributions from the town of Greenock in aid of the distressed at Paisley, amount in the whole to 659*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

387. You speak of the period from the commencement of the distress in 1841 up to the present time?—I do.

388. Independently of these sums collected in the county of Renfrew, what was the sum collected in Scotland for the relief of the distressed at Paisley?—For a certain period no distinction was made of the funds received from England and Scotland; but as near as I can estimate, the sum received in Scotland, exclusive of Renfrewshire and the towns therein, will be about 12,000 *l.*

389. What is the total amount of subscriptions received in Paisley, independently of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—Thirty thousand six hundred and forty-three pounds, nineteen shillings and eightpence halfpenny.

390. Mr. *Smollett.*] Do you include in the sum subscribed in the county, the Marquis of Abercorn's subscription?—Yes, Lord Abercorn's subscription is included in the county; I understood it was as a proprietor in the county he had subscribed.

391. *Chairman.*] You have been asked with reference to the amount raised for the relief of distress in the county of Renfrew; does your answer apply to those sums

sums which were sent for the relief of Paisley only, and not to other towns throughout the county, which might be in distress and receiving county subscriptions?—Entirely for the relief of the distress in Paisley. Mr. *Robert Wilson.* 23 February 1843.

392. You do not allude to the sums which the gentlemen of the county may have subscribed for other places?—I do not.

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*Lunæ, 27° die Februarii, 1843.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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|---|---|
| Mr. Patrick Stewart. | Mr. Colquhoun. |
| Mr. Duncan. | Lord Robert Grosvenor. |
| Mr. Smollett. | Mr. Manners Sutton. |
| Sir R. H. Inglis. | Mr. Pringle. |
| Mr. Hastie. | Mr. Young. |
| Mr. Horsman. | |

ROBERT WALLACE, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

*William Maxwell Alexander*, Esq.; Examined.

393. *Chairman.*] YOU reside in the county of Renfrew, near the town of Paisley?—I do, at South Bar, near the town of Paisley; viz. five miles from it. *W. M. Alexander*, Esq. 27 February 1843.

394. Mr. *Patrick Stewart.*] Did you reside there during the greater part of the period of distress in Renfrewshire?—Nearly the whole time.

395. Were you a member of the Relief Committee of Paisley?—No, I was not.

396. Were you aware of the change that took place in the system adopted by the Relief Committee, by giving relief from stores instead of through the medium of tickets, and if so, what was your opinion of the change?—I was aware of it; it came under my notice from the circumstance that the county was called together upon the subject; I think that was about the period that Mr. Twisleton arrived; I was told the object of the meeting, and at that meeting the county came to an understanding that they would not pay or contribute in any way, unless it was done on the principle that Mr. Twisleton had proposed.

397. Were there county meetings held respecting the distress, and what was done at those meetings, and otherwise in the county, in reference to subscriptions for the unemployed?—There were various county meetings held, and I attended, I think I may say, all of them, taking, with others, a very deep interest in what was done. But I would mention, before I go further, that the county of Renfrew, and I, as one of them, are not legally bound to support or aid Paisley; but they did do what I hope I shall have an opportunity of showing was purely a matter of voluntary charity.

398. What subscriptions took place at the county meetings as applied to the relief of the unemployed in Paisley?—When I came to London, I was not aware of this Committee, therefore I did not bring with me all the details and documents connected with this matter; but I have gone over the matter in my mind, and I am satisfied that what I am about to state is substantially correct as to the result. At all the county meetings the representatives of the Relief Fund were there, and who also had a status in our meetings—the provost of the town, and so on; the distress was painted in very glowing colours. I will endeavour to enumerate what the county have done; I will first of all go through the different subscriptions: there was a first subscription to the Relief Fund; there were two Emigration Funds; there was a second subscription to the Relief Fund; there was a Manufacturing Fund; there was a first Labour Committee formed; there was a Manufacturing Unemployed Fund formed; a third subscription to the Relief Fund, but this was but partial; a second County Labour Committee was formed; I am, giving them in the order in which they were established, as nearly as I can; then there came a Voluntary County Assessment, raised in two instalments; these embrace a large period of time, which I will afterwards explain; they commenced, I think, in August 1841, and came down to the end of 1842, or the beginning of 1843; there was, besides, a large amount expended in labour, and in food, clothing and fuel, a bazaar and a ball: all in the county.

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399. Having mentioned those different contributions on the part of the county, will you state to the Committee, as accurately as you can, how the money, food, fuel and clothing were appropriated by the different authorities to whom they were handed over by the county?—As I have heard, and as I believe, it has been said very generally, and the impression has been abroad, that the county of Renfrew have not done enough, I hope the Committee will permit me to go a little into detail; the first subscription to the Relief Fund went direct to the Relief Fund at Paisley; it did not come through the control of the county at all.

400. Do you know the amount?—I do not recollect the amount.

401. What was the date of that?—It was in or about August 1841; the two Emigration Funds were set going about the same period.

402. What was contributed to them?—The sum of 177*l.* to one, and 300*l.* to the other, making 477*l.*; I have put 350*l.* of that to the county of Renfrew; the second subscription to the Relief Fund, I think, is a subscription which the county kept under their own control, in consequence of objections connected with the grocers' ticket system; the Manufacturing Fund was established about the same time; the Manufacturing Implement Fund was established at the same period, namely, about March 1842; the first Labour Committee was formed, I think, about the same period; the date of the third subscription to the Relief Fund I cannot state precisely, but a few subscriptions came straggling in from the county, not in consequence of a meeting, I think, but from individuals; the second County Labour Fund was formed in the end of 1842, and now exists, and is now working; the Voluntary County Assessment was at the same period, towards the end of 1842; the Weaving Fund at the same time, towards the end of 1842, I think in November, and is now working,

403. You stated that the county held the control over some of the money; what was the reason of that?—I may say the county, after the first subscription, continued a control over all future funds; the county paid it in as demand came for it, and as they thought proper; the reason for so doing was, that we considered we had not that confidence which we wished in the mode in which the money had been previously laid out; this was previous to March 1842.

404. You were understood to have stated that they assumed the control at the time of Mr. Twisleton's arrival in Paisley; was that in consequence of the proposed change in the system between the grocers' tickets and the store distribution?—It was previous to Mr. Twisleton's coming down; the county were not, at that meeting (which was as strongly expressed as possible), satisfied with the mode in which the funds had generally been administered, as far as came to their knowledge.

405. In giving funds over subsequently to the Relief Committee, did they stipulate that they should be expended upon the principles laid down by Mr. Twisleton?—They did; and as I stated before, I never acted upon the Relief Fund Committee; I was only once in it; my name was put down, but I declined to act, for the reason that I did not think the matter was done in the most judicious manner; and the only time I was ever in the relief committee-room was, I may say, as one of a deputation to endeavour, by any remonstrance in our power, to persuade them to adopt Mr. Twisleton's suggestions.

406. You have alluded to two contributions to the County Labour Committees of which you were the proposer, and also a member of those committees; will you state what were the principles upon which those committees proceeded with regard to relief?—From the first I had all along thought that the way, as far as the county was concerned, to help the people was by endeavouring to procure them labour and to keep them employed; I had the honour of proposing both Labour Committees, and attended, I believe, nearly every one of the meetings; the constitution of our committee was labour, that we must have labour for any money that we paid; I refer to out-door labour; we kept from 300 to 350 persons employed at one time; we kept them employed in digging, trenching and breaking road stones; we paid none of them by day's work; we paid them according as they did the work; we adopted a low scale of wages, a shilling or ten-pence a day, and no man who did not earn that shilling was paid even that, but certainly not more, otherwise we should have had all Scotland; we advertised for digging and such work; a farmer came to us and offered a field to be dug; he said he would give, say two-pence per fall for digging; the men could not make proper wages of that, and we made up the difference by giving another penny; sometimes we gave more, but oftener less than that.

407. You mean that some of them not being accustomed to such labour, they could not work fast enough to earn sufficient, and this Labour Committee made up the difference?—Yes, we gave a small addition; a penny or so to enable them to earn the wages.

408. What kind of people were employed in the way you describe, generally?—I think I can best explain that by giving the returns that were sent to me the middle of the week before last, by the then chairman, Mr. Fleming. We had 57 labourers digging land; we had 17 labourers breaking stones; we had 53 weavers breaking stones; and we had 14 of other trades also breaking stones; making 141, which is a very reduced list, I am happy to say, from what we have had.

409. Those were paid from the county contributions to those respective Labour Funds?—They were.

410. Had you many Irish under the superintendence of those Labour Committees?—A great many.

411. What did you find generally, as to their power of working?—I would say that very nearly all the labourers, (out-door labourers, spadesmen,) that came before us, were Irish.

412. Were they good workmen?—Capital; I speak of the out-door labourers; I do not mean the weavers.

413. You yourself have employed a good many Irish out-door labourers on your estate, have you not?—A great many; when I left Scotland, I had 30 men working (digging), and I am sure that 25 of them were Irish.

414. How did you find them as workmen?—Excellent workmen, and quiet, well-behaved men.

415. Are those Irish labourers still employed, in a certain proportion, by the Labour Committee?—I believe the Irish are still employed, without distinction, by the Labour Committee.

416. Were those Irish labourers resident for some time in Paisley, or were they induced to come there by the provision held out?—That is a question it is very difficult to answer; my impression is, that many came to Paisley during the time of the distress, but I am not able to distinguish them.

417. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Your impression is, that several of those parties were Irish, who had come to Paisley in consequence of the inducement held out by the relief?—I believe so.

418. Mr. *Patrick Stewart.*] Probably, during the time of the distress, the inducements held out by these different committees occasioned others besides Irish to come to Paisley?—Others came as well as Irish; but, I should think, chiefly Irish.

419. You stated that there were two contributions for the purpose of promoting emigration; were there many applications made by the unemployed to the county authorities to emigrate?—A great many; I think, at every county meeting almost we had a petition or a deputation respecting emigration; I was also waited upon constantly by deputations at South Bar respecting emigration.

420. The parties being aware that you were active in the relief of the poor?—Yes.

421. How came it that the two separate contributions for that purpose were comparatively so small?—The contributions altogether were 477*l.* collected; I have put down to the share of the county 350*l.* of that; the way I account for that is, that at the time those subscriptions were begun the distress was great, and there seemed to be a desire that the question of emigration should not be raised, inasmuch as it would damage the subscriptions to the Relief Fund.

422. Were those sums subscribed applied to emigration of any families of the unemployed?—Yes; I find that from those two funds (I cannot precisely say which), but taken collectively there were 16 of the unemployed of Paisley went out to Port Philip at the cost of about 3*l.* a head to the Emigration Fund; the rest of that money went to assist parties to New Zealand and Canada; and I believe it was all judiciously spent.

423. Had not the Government sent down two ships at that time, on purpose to promote emigration to New Zealand?—Yes; they sent down two ships to Greenock, and they sent a Dr. Boyter, I think, with them; I heard of that in Paisley, and I believe the ships were not filled; it was stated that it was agricultural labourers they wanted; the parties were not aware that the ships were coming,

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coming, and above all they had not the money to enable them to get an outfit to enable them to go on board the ships.

424. *Chairman.*] Is all this statement regarding Paisley persons?—It is very difficult and almost impossible to distinguish Paisley from the villages, but nearly to the whole extent it applies to Paisley; I have tried as much as I can to keep out other places, but I could not distinguish the exact amount, Johnston and other places got.

425. Mr. *Patrick Stewart.*] Did all the proceedings you have related take place in Paisley, and apply to the unemployed in Paisley?—Yes, or nearly so.

426. How long have you been absent from Renfrewshire?—I left it the 28th or 29th of January.

427. Are you aware that there has been a great diminution in the list of unemployed of late?—Yes, when I left I think there were above 8,000; I believe there are now about 6,300.

428. You stated that in employing some of these destitute persons in out-door labour, some of them worked a full day's work, and others could not; that some of the weavers could not do the day's work; what is your opinion as to their power of working as agricultural labourers?—I had a great many under my notice; I not only sat at the board, but I went out into the field for days and watched them; at first they seemed awkward men, but it is astonishing with what rapidity they acquired the use of the spade, and became in a very short time good workers; before we put them on the close allowance of a shilling, in several cases the weavers earned two shillings a day by spading.

429. This was at piece-work?—Yes, it was all at piece-work.

430. Was the rate paid by the Labour Committee of the county to these people, the rate paid by the farmers and others in the county?—No, we kept rather below that, or we should have had the population from other places.

431. But notwithstanding that, some of them could earn two shillings a day?—That was previous to the reduced rate; before they were restricted, I have known them earn two shillings a day.

432. Was that the same as the county rate?—It was rather more favourable to the operatives than the common rate of wages, they not being in many cases so well fitted for our work.

433. Latterly the Labour Committee kept their rates rather below the usual county rate of wages?—They have.

434. Will you be kind enough to state to the Committee, in the aggregate, the different sums contributed by the county to these different funds?—I have prepared a list: the county subscriptions as per statement, which I extracted from the Relief Committee's books, are as follow: the first, 2,984*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*; the first County Labour Fund was about 500*l.*; the second was 578*l.* Nearly all of this was contributed by the county, and I take it at 1,000*l.*, taking off the 78*l.* There was a subscription of 9,360*l.* of a company formed, called the Manufacturing Fund; I put half of that to the county, which is equal to 4,680*l.*; the loss of the above to the partners was 15 per cent., making 702*l.* I would state that this loss was over and above the sum contributed to this fund by the Relief Committee, say, 500*l.* to 700*l.*, (above 500*l.* and under 700*l.*) so that the loss would have been much more than 15 per cent.

435. To explain that loss of 15 per cent., are the Committee to understand that there was a credit opened through which manufacturing work was given to the unemployed weavers, and on securing that work and closing the account, there was a loss of 15 per cent.?—Precisely; and the additional sum contributed by the Relief Committee making together nearly 30 per cent.

436. The 15 per cent. was the clear loss on the closing of the account, the contributors to the fund taking no credit for interest on their contributions?—None; in my own little memorandum I find that I am charged with 15*l.* on every 100*l.*

437. You paid that in hard money?—I did; the Manufacturing Implement Fund was a fund to furnish the implements of weaving-looms and so on; that was also paid in money.

438. Can you state the amount of that?—Two hundred pounds; the Weaving Fund, 386*l.*; I take half of that to the county—this was established lately, and is now working; I make the half of that 192*l.*, and the County Voluntary Assessment collected in two sums at this period; there will be, I believe, about 1,500*l.* collected;

collected; the two Emigration Funds, amounting to 477*l.*, to which the county had contributed 350*l.*, making a total of 6,929*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*

439. Lord *Robert Grosvenor.*] At how much do you reckon the amount of food, clothing, fuel, bazaar and ball?—I put the food, clothing and fuel at 1,000*l.*; I am quite certain that I am within the mark. I have one little item of Lord Kelburne alone for butcher's meat, 300*l.* Contributed by the county in labour furnished; this was generally done by the landed proprietors all over the county, and was only resorted to in consequence of the distress and want of employment of labourers and others. It may be stated, (being extensive,) at 1,100*l.*; this is quite unconnected with the two Labour Funds to which I have referred.

440. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You consider that 1,100*l.* is the loss sustained by those who have employed those persons?—I do; I take my own case. I am employing a very large number of those people in digging; my plough is not going; the cost of the one might be taken at about one-third or one-fourth of the other. When I look to what I saw the Lord-Lieutenant, Sir John Maxwell, Mr. Maxwell, Lord Blantyre, Sir William Napier, the Houstons of Johnston, Fleming, Alexander, Graham, Muir, and many others—when I saw the extensive works which they were carrying on, and the number of people they were paying weekly, the large weekly bills for wages, I feel satisfied that I am quite within the mark, that they paid that money above what they might have had their work done for in the common mode of agriculture.

441. Lord *Robert Grosvenor.*] Was all this labour expended in cultivation?—Yes, considering draining and clearing the land of furze, and making bad land arable, and so on, cultivation.

442. Mr. *Young.*] When you estimate great loss on this labour, do you mean that labour was employed from charitable motives, in a more expensive way than the same cultivation might have been otherwise done?—I do.

443. That in point of fact they used spade labour, when the same labour might have been performed more economically by the plough?—Yes, and by contract; I give even any advantage that there may be in spading a field instead of ploughing.

444. So that the difference may, in point of fact, be fairly carried to the account for charitable contributions?—Certainly.

445. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] This calculation of 1,100*l.* loss is founded on the calculation of the amount spent?—It must have been founded on that, or the number employed.

446. Did you found your calculation on the sum of money expended, or the number employed?—On the number employed.

447. Can you state the number employed?—My answer must be general; Mr. Spiers and the other gentlemen of the county, I believe, had 300 or 400 constantly employed daily for a length of time.

448. In fact, the employment of these labourers was a relief to the local committee of Paisley to the amount of three or four hundred?—Just so; a great proportion of them would otherwise have been added to Relief Fund.

449. Mr. *Hastie.*] Would they have gone from the county into Paisley?—I think a great many of those went out of Paisley every day to work.

450. Lord *Robert Grosvenor.*] Do you consider that the work that was done in cutting drains was a loss to those who employed those people?—It could have been done a great deal cheaper by men accustomed to it.

451. Why?—Because our draining is carried on by artists; men accustomed to it for a series of years.

452. Mr. *Pringle.*] Have you calculated the difference between the cost of unskilful workmen and men who were used to do that kind of work?—No, I have not; but the difference will be considerable.

453. Mr. *Hastie.*] Was any inquiry made how long the parties had, in fact, resided within the parish, or within Paisley, previous to employing them?—I believe not under this head; but under the Labour Fund we constantly tried to discover who were the parties whom it was most proper to relieve, and how long they had been there, and their circumstances.

454. Is it your opinion that any parties from other places came and were employed at those works, not having been residing previously in Paisley?—I think so.

455. Did that extend to any number?—I did my utmost to ascertain; I should say that some did, but I cannot say to what extent.

456. *Chairman.*] Do you mean persons who had imposed themselves upon the committees as being Paisley people?—Yes; but to what extent I cannot say.

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457. Mr. *Young*.] What period of residence in Paisley would you consider as giving a man a fair claim to employment from the Agriculture Labour Fund?—The Scotch law is three years' settlement; a man residing three years; but we did not go rigidly by that; I am satisfied that some that had not been three years got employment from our Labour Fund.

458. Mr. *Patrick Stewart*.] Is there any other item you would state?—The next item is the bazaar and ball got up for the express purpose of relieving the unemployed; the cost to the county was not less than 700*l*.

459. How was that money appropriated?—I believe Paisley got a large proportion; but I think a considerable sum went to the clothing of Paisley, and to the clothing of Johnston and Kilbarchan, and Pollockshaws; that was done under the auspices of the Lady Patronesses and the Lady Directresses, and very great good was done with it.

460. These sums you have enumerated as being county contributions to the various funds, are what were done at the county meetings in Paisley independently of other contributions on the part of yourself and other landed proprietors in your own vicinity?—Besides the foregoing, each individual had to administer to the wants of those in his own neighbourhood; this was quite unconnected with the parish poor.

461. Will you state the sum total?—The sum total is 9,729*l*. 7*s*. 10*d*.

462. Lord *Robert Grosvenor*.] You stated that the farmers and others applied to your committee for labourers, and that in particular cases you made up a certain amount of wages; was the amount paid by the farmers less than they would have paid in the regular market?—I do not consider that the farmer was a gainer.

463. You consider that though the amount paid was less, the labour done was worse?—The general run of people were not able to work so well, for themselves, consequently they were no gainers; they, the farmers and others, got their labour at the market rate, and the work was well done.

464. You are to be understood that the farmer paid for the bad labour as much as he would have done for the good?—No, his work was well done at the same rate as it would have been if he had gone into the labour-market; the quantity of land which the parties dug was immense.

465. *Chairman*.] Were not a great many persons induced to have their land dug and prepared, as an act of kindness and charity to the unemployed?—Certainly.

466. But for that feeling, those proprietors and farmers who gave work to the unemployed in Paisley, would have ploughed their land and worked it with their farm establishment?—No doubt of it; there was a general feeling that every man should do what he could to afford employment.

467. Mr. *Young*.] You have stated, that with regard to the Irish employed under the Agriculture Labour Fund, you took great pains to ascertain how long they had resided in Paisley; did you take pains to ascertain what their employment had been?—Yes, most of them; a great portion were labourers, bricklayers' and masons' labourers, and so on, out-door labourers; in short, very few weavers.

468. How were the wives and families of those men employed?—In manufactories and works.

469. They were thrown out of employment in this period of distress, as well as the fathers of the families?—Of course.

470. You made very little difference in employing those parties as to the period of residence?—Very little; we tried to keep as tight a hand over them as we could, to prevent strangers coming in.

471. You were not on the committee for the relief of the town of Paisley?—I was not.

472. Were you aware of their resolutions?—I was aware of one resolution respecting grocers' tickets.

473. Did you hear that they had passed a resolution to discontinue relief to the Irish?—I have heard that since I came to London; but it was all just hearsay. I had no official information of it. I am sure I did not hear it when I was on duty at the Labour Committee in Paisley.

474. Do you think that it was the hope of obtaining labour as hodmen and bricklayers' and masons' labourers, or only the hope of obtaining employment for their wives and children as connected with the factories, which induced the Irish to whom you have referred, to settle in Paisley?—Both. They come to Scotland with the double purpose of obtaining work for themselves and their families.

475. Probably

475. Probably it is your opinion that the single inducement of obtaining labour for themselves would not have brought them from Ireland to Scotland?—The double purpose generally prevails. Whether the one would have brought them, it is impossible to say.

476. Mr. *Pringle.*] During that period, when there was an amount of manufacturing employment which induced themto expect employment for their wives and children, was there much building going on?—They have been coming over from time to time from the earliest;—the west of Scotland has been overrun with labourers of that description, and whether there were more or less at a particular time, I cannot say. A great proportion of the out-door labourers in the west of Scotland are Irish; and in my own establishment of spadesmen and labourers and so on, they are nearly all Irish, and excellent workers they are.

477. Mr. *Hastie.*] You stated that the county were not satisfied with the mode of distribution of the funds subscribed, and that they held the subscriptions to be applied as they deemed best; what was the cause of that?—It was to endeavour to bring about unanimity of purpose with Mr. Twisleton and the committee—to get them to come into the mode of giving relief by stores, and not by grocers' tickets.

478. The county deeming it best for the economical distribution of the funds, that it should be by stores, and not by tickets?—Yes.

479. What was the general impression in the public mind on Mr. Twisleton's coming down there?—The impression on my mind was, that he came there to investigate.

480. On account of any particular party?—The first time I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Twisleton was, I think, at the meeting to which I have referred, and he told me he came there acting, I think, he said, for individual members of the Government, and particularly alluded to the subscriptions which were announced from London at the time.

481. Can you say, from your belief or knowledge, whether the public got the impression that something was to be done in consequence of Mr. Twisleton coming down?—Yes; I think there was an impression abroad that there was to be something done.

482. From what did that arise?—Just simply that he was there, and that the people could not starve.

483. And being an employé of Government?—No; I think not.

484. Was it the impression with the public that he had any connexion with the Government?—I cannot say; my own impression was, that he came there as he described, and I never heard anything in a public meeting, but that he came there on the part of individuals in London, of individual members; Her Majesty was a subscriber.

485. Was there any falling off in the subscriptions on Mr. Twisleton's arrival in Paisley, in consequence of his coming?—None, that came under my notice; none on the part of the county, but whether of that flowing from other channels I cannot say.

486. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You heard distinctly Mr. Twisleton avow, the first time you saw him, that he was there on the part of individual members of Her Majesty's Government?—I did.

487. That was publicly announced?—It was.

488. Mr. *Duncan.*] Do you mean to say that 9,729*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* was contributed by the county towards the distress in Paisley alone?—Yes, founded on the data I have given, made up out of the sums I have given; as I have mentioned before, it is impossible to say Paisley alone, but nearly the whole of it; there was money paid over by the Labour Fund; small sums were paid over to Johnston, and other villages; I have tried to separate them as much as I can, but certainly nearly the whole of it went to Paisley.

489. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] As nearly as you can approximate, that is the sum appropriated to the relief of distress in Paisley?—Yes, nearly so; no books in the county would enable me to point what went to those other places; but the amount was small in proportion.

490. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] So that if a calculation has been given in to the Committee representing the contributions of the county, as somewhere about 6,000*l.* you would consider that greatly underrated?—Very greatly underrated, for I see it is a larger sum than that before I come to the food, and other relief; 6,900*l.* has been paid over in money.

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491. *Chairman.*] YOU are Provost of Paisley, are you not?—I am.

492. How long have you resided in the town of Paisley?—About 40 years; and I have been 25 years in business on my own account.

493. Have you had occasion to attend much to the distress which has prevailed and is now prevailing in Paisley?—Yes, I have had a great deal to do with the distress which has prevailed for many years past, and with the present distress likewise.

494. When did the present distress commence?—In 5th month (May) 1841.

495. Have you paid particular attention to its extent and severity?—Yes.

496. Can you point out to the Committee its general progress as affecting Paisley?—I have a number of documents here that I have prepared to show its progress, and the tremendous effects which have followed since its commencement up to the present time.

497. Did the distress exist for a considerable time before any appeal was made to the public for relief?—I think it had been in existence something about four or six weeks before any appeal was made to the inhabitants of Paisley; in the 10th month (October) 1841, an appeal was for the first time made to the country. I will just mention, in addition, that a meeting of the county was previously held in August to raise the means of giving relief.

498. To what classes of the community in Paisley has the distress extended?—To all classes of the inhabitants of the town.

499. Do you mean to state that all classes in the town are now suffering under distress?—Yes, I think without exception, unless it be a very few individuals who have fixed incomes from Government, or are living on land rents, or feu-duties, as we term them.

500. Has the distress diminished or increased of late?—During the first two of the last four months it increased to a very great extent, but it has been gradually diminishing during the last four weeks.

501. Is it diminishing at present?—It is.

502. Is trade improving at present?—Yes.

503. Can you state what means have been resorted to, to test the distress and lessen the number of the applicants?—Various measures have been resorted to for that purpose; in the first place, endeavours have been repeatedly made to obtain work for the unemployed, both by setting on foot manufacturing associations, and obtaining manufacturing labour, and various scrutinies have taken place of those on the Relief List for the purpose of detecting imposition.

504. Were the means adopted for the prevention of imposition successful?—We have never been able to discover much imposition; only 43 cases have been detected, and of those only five were found of a nature that could be convicted or deserved punishment.

505. Do you consider the present distress as more severe and deplorable than any previous visitation in Paisley?—Yes, I think to a very great extent.

506. Have you had much intercourse with the working population of Paisley for many years past?—Yes, I have always had a good deal of intercourse with them.

507. For how many years?—Ever since I was a boy.

508. Have you paid attention to the condition and relief of the unemployed and destitute since May 1841?—Yes; I have taken a very active part, both in ascertaining their condition and in seeing relief administered to them.

509. Have you visited them in their dwelling-houses to ascertain their condition, or have you trusted to hearsay?—I have very frequently visited their dwelling-houses myself.

510. In what condition have you generally found the working classes during that time?—I have found them in a very miserable condition—particularly that portion under the care of the Relief Committee; and have found a very marked deterioration in their circumstances and habits between that period and the years 1829 and 1830, when I first came to perform similar duties. From the commencement of the distress in 1841 to the present time, I have known a considerable difference in the condition of the working population for the worse.

511. Were you a member of the Relief Committees which have existed from 1841 in Paisley?—Yes, up to within the last few weeks.

512. Have you given your attention to the allowances which were given to those upon the Relief List?—Yes.

513. Were

513. Were not the unemployed and destitute supplied at first from grocers' shops, and other provision-shops, by tickets, which allowed them to make a choice to a certain extent of the articles they were to get in exchange for their money?—Yes, they were.

514. The system of supplying them from stores was introduced at an after period?—Yes.

515. State to the Committee your impression of those different modes of supplying the unemployed from the end of 1841 up to the present time?—Along with a very great majority of the inhabitants and the Relief Committee, I was of opinion that the best way of maintaining the status and independence of the working population, was to allow them to select the parties who should supply them with provisions, and as a proof how far that view is generally found correct in our district of the county, the managers of the poor have uniformly in all the parishes round about, found it best to give the people the money in their own hands for obtaining their relief.

516. Do you mean the managers of the poor of the town of Paisley?—Yes, and the neighbouring parishes besides.

517. Is it your opinion that it would be better to relieve the destitute in Paisley by money than by stores?—Yes.

518. Can you state to the Committee the average rate per head which has been allowed to the destitute families since 1841?—The average rate per head at the commencement of the distress was something about three-halfpence a day, but latterly it has been reduced as low as a penny, and during the time that ten hours' work was enforced, it was rather under two-pence.

519. Do you mean from June 1841 up to the present time?—Yes, it has ranged from 2*d.* to 1*d.* per head.

520. To what number of persons does the answer you have given apply?—The datum I have taken for giving that rate of allowance has been at the various periods of the distress, the sum expended divided among the number of persons on the list amounting to various numbers at different times; in November 1841 I find the number ranged from 7,000 to 10,000 persons; at that time it was fixed at 1½*d.* a head; again in May and June 1842, the range runs about 10,000 upon the list; at that time it was as near as might be about 2*d.*, rather under 2*d.*; again at the present period, the numbers are about 8,000, and it runs about 1*d.* per head.

521. What was the cause of the different rates of allowance which you have specified?—When the administration of relief was commenced in the 6th month (June) 1841, and from that up to November, little labour was exacted from the people who were receiving relief, and a very low rate of allowance was given to them, in a great measure owing to the want of funds; again in May 1842, under the management of the Government Commissioner, when 10 hours' labour was enforced, the rate was raised 1*s.* a week to each family; as soon as he withdrew it was again reduced, and it has been gradually reduced since, till it now comes to what I have stated, about 1*d.* per head.

522. Do you mean to state to the Committee that, in consequence of more labour being required, a higher rate of allowance was given?—Yes.

523. When less labour was required, a less rate was given?—Yes.

524. How has this allowance succeeded in supplying the wants of the destitute?—It has never been sufficient to supply their wants properly; and during the late reduction since, about July and August last, the heads of large families have very generally complained to me of having been under the necessity of wanting food for two or three days in the week entirely, and if they did not sustain that want, they would have to make it up by pawning and putting their articles away from them.

525. Have you made any calculation of what would be sufficient under the present price of provisions, and the price at the two former periods you have mentioned, to maintain an individual in Paisley?—We find in our town hospital and in the prison, that, at the lowest rate of diet the people can be supported there, it requires about 3½*d.*, at the second rate 4½*d.* for support.

526. Do you mean the Committee to understand that in your opinion, acquainted as you are with the prices of provisions, it would require 3*d.* or 3½*d.* to 4*d.* per day to maintain them properly?—Yes.

527. When you have spoken of 1*d.* and 1½*d.* and nearly 2*d.*, was there any thing

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thing beyond that allowed for house-rent, fire, clothing, soap, candle, or education?—No, nothing whatever.

528. Are the Committee to understand that the 1 *d.*, 1½ *d.*, or 2*d.*, was entirely for the maintenance of the recipients?—It was all they had any means of receiving in the way of relief for every purpose whatever.

529. Were the wages of those who came within the unemployed list diminished from 1841 to the present time?—The allowance received from the Relief Committee was diminished, as I have before stated.

530. Were the wages paid for work in the town of Paisley to weavers and other manufacturers lowered so as to leave them as if newly out of employment, or to give them but little means of subsistence between the period of 1841 and the present time?—That is to say, the ordinary workmen that were not on the Relief List—yes, the wages have been slightly diminished; I dare say since the commencement of the distress, the incomes of the workmen have been diminished from various causes, partly by reducing the rate paid for their labour, and partly on account of the depression of trade, leading to the frequent changes of their mountings, which they require for their work.

531. Do you know of any case where labourers or others, having applied to the Relief Committee, were refused any relief until they had dispersed themselves and sought work in the neighbouring counties, or the country round Paisley?—One class of the destitute, those who were connected with agricultural labour, and the ordinary line of tradesmen, such as blacksmiths, cabinet-makers, sawyers, tailors, shoemakers, and so forth, were never taken upon the Relief List, except in extreme cases, till they had made application over the country. At repeated periods during the distress, we have applied the same rule to some classes of the weavers.

532. What test was applied by the Relief Committee in giving relief from the fund?—The first regulation that was laid down, and which has been acted upon the whole time new applicants have been taken on, was, that the parties should be two weeks idle, and that they should produce certificates to satisfy the committee that, from the balance they had in hand when paid off, they could have nothing left of their own to maintain themselves.

533. At what period was this test required, and does it still continue?—It has always been required from parties when they made their application; but at this period, from the 6th of January, no new applicants have been taken on; consequently that test falls to the ground.

534. Do you mean to say that mode of testing the distress of the applicants was enforced from June 1841 during the whole of that year, during the year 1842, and up to the 1st of January this year?—Yes, it was strictly enforced from the commencement of the distress as far as the committee could carry it into effect.

535. Were those tests produced by means of schedules?—Yes, and an examination of the schedules afterwards; and the schedules returned certified by the former employer, and by the overseer of the poor in the district where the applicants resided.

536. Can you produce any of those schedules?—Yes.

537. Be so good as to produce one or two?—This is a small parcel, applying to a particular class of the applicants.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.*]

538. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] This is dated the 15th of February 1843?—Yes; this class of schedules, and another I have here, are schedules arising from an investigation we instituted as magistrates, before I left for London, to ascertain the particulars of the unrelieved distress.

539. Those schedules when issued by the Local Relief Committee were all subsequently scrutinized by the Relief Committee?—Yes.

540. Have those you produce been scrutinized by the committee?—Those were scrutinized by the magistrates; those parties have never been put on the Relief List.

541. Were those schedules issued by the magistrates in the same manner as the schedules have been issued by the Local Relief Committee?—Yes; just in the same manner; and I may just explain, as regards the mode of dealing with those schedules: when a person found himself or herself in destitution, they applied to the clerks which the Relief Committee have in waiting for a schedule; they got that, and filled it up, certified by their former employer, by the overseer

seer of the district, and certified on the back by some respectable person in the neighbourhood where they lived, an elder, or other person; they brought that to the committee; the committee then made them undergo a personal scrutiny, in addition; and that practice has been uniformly pursued during the whole period of the distress.

542. The committee, you say, received applications for the schedules?—Yes.

543. Those schedules you produce are the result of an investigation which has been entered into by the magistrates of the town of Paisley?—Yes.

544. The committee received applications from the unemployed for schedules similar to those?—Yes.

545. Were those schedules left at the committee-room or at the magistrate's room, for the purpose of receiving applications?—Yes.

546. Did the persons who obtained those schedules and filled them up, obtain them in the same manner as the persons did before, when they received them from the Local Relief Committee?—Just the same; but this has been done by the magistrates, the Local Relief Committee having given up that portion of the labour.

547. It was not the practice for the Relief Committee to issue a schedule till the application was made?—Never.

548. Who was the person empowered to receive applications for those schedules?—Just the same person who delivered them out before.

549. Were those schedules lying in the rooms, or were they carried about by any persons?—They were, far the greater portion of them, lying in the room; but to facilitate the inquiry, which is not yet completed, from the shortness of the period, the visitors were directed by the Relief Committee, not by the magistrates, to hand a schedule of that kind to any party they might find in a state of destitution.

550. Then those schedules were not issued in the same manner in which the schedules had been given by the Relief Committee?—A certain portion of them were called for, and another portion given to those who were found to be in distress; it was thought desirable not to intimate publicly that they might be had on calling for, because that might have been considered as holding out a hope that relief was about to be given; but it was thought best that if any persons applied they should be furnished with them, and that the visitors might be at liberty to give them to those they found in distress.

551. They did not wait for applications in all cases, but they offered them?—Yes, in some cases.

552. Have those schedules been scrutinized since they have been received?—Yes.

553. How have they been scrutinized?—The whole of those I produce have been scrutinized in the presence of myself and other magistrates, and I have received an account of the scrutiny on the remaining schedules by the other magistrates, since I left home.

554. Were the persons themselves required to be present?—Yes; and on the back of them there are accounts of the state of every one of those persons, signed by the clerk of the Relief Committee.

555. Those are the schedules of persons not on the Relief Fund?—Yes.

556. They are schedules obtained by persons not on the Relief Fund, partly on their application to the Relief Committee, and partly given to them by the visitors in making their rounds?—Just so.

557. *Chairman.*] The schedules you have now produced have been put to use since the committee refused to receive new applicants?—Yes.

558. Those are from parties who would have applied to the Relief Committee for assistance, but for the rule laid down that no new applicants would be received?—Yes; they were given to none but those who would have applied, and who were anxious to obtain relief, but who could not obtain it in consequence of that resolution; they would never have come forward and stated before the magistrates their condition, if they had been able to do without relief.

559. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] These schedules were issued, not with the hope of their obtaining relief, but to enable the magistrates to gain a census of the distressed population in Paisley?—For the express purpose of obtaining information for this Parliamentary Committee of the amount of unrelieved destitution in the town; there were many in great destitution, and the schedules exhibit a very painful account of the state of their families.

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560. *Chairman.*] Do the schedules generally show a state of distress?—Every one of them; where we found a case that would not have been taken on by the Relief Committee if they had been in the habit of receiving applications, we threw that aside; we have got only those which were cases of severe destitution; one I have received since I came to London strikes me very much—the case of a widowed mother, with six children, who have been refused all relief, and who have put in pawn during the last two months to the amount of 5*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, and of that, 18*s.* 11½*d.* has been pawned since the resolution of the committee in January.

561. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Is she an Irishwoman?—No; I believe she has not ranked as an Irish person.

562. On what ground was she refused relief?—By the same resolution, by which the committee refused relief to the Irish; they also carried a resolution to refuse relief to all new applicants, however clamant their case might be.

563. Had this poor woman never been on the Relief List?—No.

564. If she had applied before the 6th of January, you state that her case was such as would have entitled her to relief?—Yes.

565. No subsequent resolution come to by the committee would have had the effect of turning her off that list if she had been once on the list?—No, not in that case.

566. *Chairman.*] Did any subsequent resolution of the committee go to admit any such case to the Relief List?—No.

567. Then this person, with the others whose schedules you have before you, have been prevented from applying to the Relief Committee, from a conviction that their cases would not be there entertained?—Distinctly so; many of them applied—hundreds of them; but their applications were refused.

568. Were schedules refused to them?—Yes.

569. How many can you state to have applied?—In an investigation conducted under my own superintendence, 117 heads of families have been deprived of relief, with 240 dependents.

570. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] On what ground were they deprived of relief?—On various grounds; a great portion of them on the ground of their being new applicants.

571. Do you mean that they had been on the fund, and struck off?—Both that class, and new applicants. From an abstract I hold in my hand, I find there has been refused in whole, male and female heads of families, 117; their dependents, 240; making a total of 357; and of these there have been struck off the list for being less than 10 years in Paisley, Irish people, 16; struck off for being two years on the fund, 8; struck off, having received parish relief, 5; refused relief on account of not having been on the fund, new applicants, 78; showing that the greatest portion of the destitution, from the effect of that resolution, has been most severely felt by the new applicants; many of whom had been maintaining themselves for months by pawning and selling their furniture and clothing.

572. You were understood to say that you thought the distress was diminishing, and the prospects of trade rather better at the present moment?—Yes.

573. Are you aware whether the number of the persons on the Relief List is diminishing?—Yes; it is diminishing very rapidly.

574. On what account; on account of being struck off, or the people gaining work?—Principally by persons getting labour, but in a great measure on account of no new applicants being taken on; during the worst times of the distress we had always a considerable number coming on and going off every week, some getting work, and others being thrown out of work.

575. *Chairman.*] You have mentioned an individual having pawned almost all, if not all, her property during the period of which you have been speaking; does it consist with your knowledge, that the distress in Paisley has caused a great deal of pawning to take place?—I have visited a very great number of families, and found many of them without any single article which they could dispose of in any form; without any thing in the shape of bedding, without any thing in the shape of furniture, without any thing in the shape of clothes to cover themselves; and several of the petitioners who have come to state their case to me have had to borrow some piece of upper clothing from a neighbour to enable them to appear on the street, and that within a day or two of the time I left the town.

576. Do you mean, by petitioners, applicants to get on the Relief Fund?—Applicants for assistance; not being connected with the Relief Fund at that time,

time, they applied to me, to see whether I could give them assistance in any way.

577. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Do you mean applying to you in a private capacity?—Applying to me as a magistrate.

578. *Chairman.*] During the time you were a member of the Relief Committee in Paisley, were means taken to keep the lists as low as possible with justice to those in distress?—Yes; we uniformly took every means in our power to prevent imposition, and to allow none to receive relief unless they were in a state of utter destitution, and had no other means of obtaining assistance.

579. Did you institute scrutinies in the strictest form you could do for that purpose?—Yes, such scrutinies were frequently instituted; one was set on foot in the commencement of 1842, and conducted by people unconnected with the Relief Committee, who were strongly under the belief that imposition existed to a great extent in the town; at that time we had 14,000 persons on the list, and all the imposition they found was in 63 cases.

580. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Do you mean 63 cases of heads of families, or 63 persons altogether?—I think, 63 cases altogether; it was in February 1842; the committee that called for that scrutiny and conducted it, were so much disappointed with the result of the scrutiny, they never gave in a formal report, and I cannot positively say whether the 63 cases were individuals, or 63 heads of families.

581. *Chairman.*] Do you mean, that the committee expected a so much larger return, that they would not make a statement of it?—Yes; they never gave in a formal report; the report was repeatedly called for, but never given in.

582. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Who were the parties who made the inquiry?—It was instituted on the motion of one of our parish clergymen, and conducted by parties selected by himself and the committee, gentlemen who had no connexion with the Relief Committee, respectable residents in the various parts of the town; each resident had allotted to him perhaps 20 or 30 persons who were on the Relief List, and his duty was to go in upon them at any period he thought proper, without their being aware, to ascertain whether there was any labour in the family or not.

583. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Are the Committee to understand, that though the investigation was completed, they gave in no report?—Yes; I understood so.

584. With reference to your previous answer, do you mean to say that you think it was because this committee found the result of their investigation would not carry out their own views, they therefore refused to give the information they had obtained?—We never could account for it in any other way, and it was not by me, but by other members of the committee, repeatedly called for.

585. This committee, you are understood to say, consisted of gentlemen, the most respectable persons in different parts of the town, principally chosen by yourself and other members of the committee?—They were chosen by a sub-committee; my conviction is, that the impositions were found so few (and the parties were, of course, struck off the list as soon as detected), it was felt unnecessary to give in a report.

586. Mr. *Hastie.*] Did this inquiry arise out of an opinion prevailing in the minds of some of the committee, that there were a great number on the Relief Fund not entitled to be there?—Distinctly; and an opinion very prevalent in the town.

587. This committee, to satisfy themselves whether this existed to a large extent, appointed a committee for investigation, and that committee never reported the result?—Yes.

588. The opinion of the remaining part of the committee, and the result, was, that there were not more than the number you have stated imposing upon the funds?—Distinctly.

589. *Chairman.*] You have stated that there has been, in addition to the relief, more employment given to the people of Paisley of late; can you state whether that has been from the manufacturers of Paisley or elsewhere?—A considerable portion of the additional labour obtained has been obtained from Glasgow; I should suppose to the amount of 300 weavers within the last six weeks have been so employed.

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590. Have not the Paisley operatives always been employed by the Glasgow manufacturing houses?—No; during the last two or three years there were very few Paisley people working to the Glasgow houses; and the Paisley houses were in the habit of employing weavers in the neighbouring villages to a great extent.

591. But some men have now got employment from the Glasgow manufacturers?—Yes, and from the Paisley manufacturers also.

592. In their own trade?—Yes; I have made a statement of the number of weavers employed in the month of December last, and we found at that period one-third of the weavers working to the Glasgow houses, and the other two-thirds working to the Paisley houses; since that, I suppose the increase has been very nearly similarly proportioned to both towns.

593. Mr. *Smollett.*] Do you suppose orders have been given to the Paisley weavers from the Glasgow manufacturers out of a desire to relieve them, or in the general course of their trade?—I suppose about 200 weavers who have obtained employment have got it principally as matter of favour at the solicitation of members of the Paisley Committee.

594. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] It appears that the sum of 1,227*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* was contributed in and by Paisley towards the relief of distress therein, between the 10th of June 1841 and the 9th of May 1842, and that one-half of a certain sum raised in the county of Renfrew may be considered as raised in Paisley, namely, 964*l.* 16*s.*, being the one-half of 1,929*l.* 12*s.*, making an aggregate of 2,192*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; it appears that the sum of 2,391*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, and the further sum of 592*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, making an aggregate of 2,984*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, were raised in the county in the same interval; it appears also that an aggregate sum of 21,579*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.* was raised from other sources in the same interval, for the relief of the distress in Paisley; it has been stated by you that the average number of the distress in Paisley in the same interval was 10,000; does it not appear from this statement that the relief afforded by the town of Paisley to each of its 10,000 distressed inhabitants during the eleven months, from the 10th of June 1841 to the 9th of May 1842, being the sum of 2,192*l* 10*s.* 8*d.*, was about 4*s.* 2*d.* per head; while the further relief furnished by the county, being the sum of 2,984*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*, was about 5*s.* 11*d.* per head; while the relief afforded extraneously during the same interval, being the sum of 21,579*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.*, was about 2*l.* 3*s.* 1¾*d.* per head? In the second period specified in page 1 of papers, No. 1, the amount contributed by the London Committee for the relief of distressed manufacturers through Messrs. Twisleton and Ramsay, without any addition from any other source, appears to be the sum of 3,710*l.* During the third period, subdivided by yourself into two periods, during one of which relief was given to 8,500 at 1½*d.*; and during the other, relief was given to 10,000 at 1*d.*, say to 8,250 at 1¼*d.* The total amount raised in the town of Paisleyis stated in the paper you hold in your hand to be 748*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, whilst the relief afforded from other sources is stated to have been 14,310*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*; does it not appear from this, that while the relief afforded by the town of Paisley was above 1*s.* 9¾*d.* per head, the relief afforded extraneously was above 1*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* per head; do you admit the accuracy of those figures?—Yes.

*See* App. p. 131.

595. It has been stated in evidence before this Committee, on the 17th inst., (answer 20), that the total amount of subscriptions placed at the disposal of the Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee was 100,377*l.*; and it is also stated on the proceedings of the Committee, that the amount distributed has been 64,941*l.* up to the 22d instant, and that the amount allocated to Paisley has been, up to the 15th instant, the sum of 15,131*l.* 9*s.*; does not this prove that the town of Paisley has received a fourth part of all that has been distributed, and a sixth part of all which has been collected in England for the relief of general distress, besides what Paisley has received from the Queen's Letter in Scotland, and from other sources?—I have, of course, no reason to doubt the truth of the statement, but I cannot see how that affects the condition of Paisley.

596. There appears in the printed papers now shown to you, in page 18 or No. 3, a letter from yourself and other gentlemen, dated "Council Chamber, Paisley, 31st October 1842;" does it not appear from your own statement, addressed to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, that the expense of management of the fund remitted to the care of the Paisley Relief Committee was upon the average 17*l.* 4*s.* per week?—Yes.

*See* App. p. 155.

597. Will you state to the Committee whether, in the selection of the persons who received this sum, you had or had not special regard to the parties themselves

selves being unemployed operatives?—I beg to state, that the whole of the parties referred to in that list were individuals that were appointed by Edward Twisleton, and that the expense of management was considerably increased by him. Before the arrival of Edward Twisleton, we gave very low wages to all the parties whom we employed; there were a number of individuals in destitute circumstances, and who would have required relief otherwise. I think the highest wages any of them got was 15*s.* per week, and that the greater portion of them were about 9*s.* a week; whereas the allowance from the Relief List might have averaged from 5*s.* to 7*s.* per week; but after the management was taken out of the hands of the Local Committee by Edward Twisleton, it was thought advisable by him to appoint a new class of people altogether, to set aside entirely the class of unemployed operatives.

598. Do you wish the Committee to consider that these parties were not unemployed operatives?—There are three visitors, at 20*s.* each; they were not unemployed operatives, but parties appointed by Edward Twisleton; the next two were respectable tradesmen, put in by the Local Committee, in consequence of resignations, at 4*s.* less per week than he had paid for the same men. The next visitor at 10*s.* was an unemployed operative. A superintendent of the labour, at 21*s.* per week, was appointed by Edward Twisleton, and was an expert manager of country work, and not an unemployed operative. The other superintendent, at 20*s.*, was the same; and the assistants were unemployed operatives, at 10*s.* per week. All the succeeding individuals upon the list were unemployed operatives, which I find ranged from 9*s.*, 7*s.*, 15*s.*, and so on; one at 15*s.* was principal clerk—a steady active man.

599. Will you furnish the Committee with a statement of the value of the stock of stones now in possession of the Relief Committee at Paisley?—I will obtain it.

600. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You state that the men at 20*s.* were not unemployed operatives, and that they were appointed by Mr. Twisleton?—Yes.

601. Were the two visitors at 16*s.* unemployed operatives?—They were scarcely unemployed operatives; they were persons who had been in some little business, as clerks, but were out of employment at the time; they were not meant to give relief to, but were engaged for the purpose of getting a respectable person to fulfil that duty at as moderate a price as it could be done.

602. Would they have been on the Relief List if not so appointed?—No.

603. You state that some of the others were unemployed operatives?—All those of the lower class, from 10*s.* downwards.

604. Are the Committee to understand that Mr. Twisleton appointed those as unemployed operatives?—The whole of this list is as it was left by him, with the exception of two, at 16*s.* a week.

605. Unemployed operatives were appointed by him?—Yes, he had a few of them kept on; he continued a few of them, and added a considerable number of persons who were not unemployed operatives.

606. Mr. *Hastie.*] Previous to Mr. Twisleton's coming down, had you a class of persons doing nearly the same duty he appointed persons to do subsequently?—Yes.

607. Those parties received considerably less?—Yes; the men we appointed to visit the families, and to do the same work as was done by the parties at 10*s.*, were paid 9*s.*

608. Mr. Twisleton's object in changing and paying them higher wages was to get a class of persons more independent of the working classes, and by that means examine more strictly into the condition, and see that parties applying, who were not entitled, were not passed by that sort of conventional fellow feeling which might be supposed to prevail?—Yes, it was partly from that object, and from the impression on his mind, and that of some others, that a tradesman with wages of 9*s.* a week was likely to continue to support the distress, because he was then better than if he had been at his ordinary employment. I wish to state that I have always held the opinion that low wages should be given in such cases; and I have used in the committee all the influence I could to keep down the wages of those parties; and if I had had any influence to prevent this, I should have appointed these parties at a lower wage than has been done.

609. The duties of the visitors, after the schedules had been sent in, was to go and see whether the party was as he described himself?—Yes.

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610. Did they perform the duty of clerks also?—No, that was a separate class.

611. No parties were put on the list until they had been visited by those visitors, and their being put on was sanctioned by their report?—No, none were put on until that was done.

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*Martis, 28° die Februarii, 1843.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. Duncan. | Mr. Acland. |
| Mr. Manners Sutton. | Lord Robert Grosvenor. |
| Sir R. H. Inglis. | Mr. Pringle. |
| Mr. Colquhoun. | Mr. Young. |
| Mr. Smollett. | Mr. Hastie. |
| Mr. Patrick Stewart. | |

ROBERT WALLACE, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

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Mr. *John Henderson*; further Examined.

Mr. *J. Henderson.*

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612. *Chairman.*] CAN you inform the Committee at what period of the year Mr. Twisleton came to Paisley last year?—Some time in the 3d month (March).

613. Did he announce to you, as the provost, his arrival immediately upon his coming?—No.

614. How long might it be before he announced his arrival to you?—The first official information we received of his arrival was when it was made to the Relief Committee, some time about three or four weeks after he came.

615. What do you mean by the term "official?"—That is to say, his intimation that he was there in a public capacity.

616. In what capacity did he represent himself to be?—He announced himself to have been sent down by certain parties to superintend the distribution of their subscriptions—certain parties connected with the Government.

617. What parties?—He never gave the names particularly, but we understood them to be the subscribers to the Renfrewshire subscription—the Queen, Sir James Graham, Sir Robert Peel, and others connected with the Government.

618. Did you understand those subscriptions to be in their public or their private capacity?—We were led to understand them to be in their private capacity.

619. Of about what number did the Paisley Relief Committee consist at the time of Mr. Twisleton's arrival?—I should suppose from 70 to 80 members.

620. Do the minutes of the committee show the numbers who attended?—Yes, they do. A record was regularly taken of the members who attended.

621. Were the magistrates component parts of that committee?—Yes.

622. Were the clergy, as a body?—Yes.

623. In what way were the clergy chosen; how did they become component parts of the committee?—The magistrates were chosen members of the committee at its first institution at the public meeting, and so were the clergy; but from time to time additions were made to the committee, in virtue of the power to add to their numbers.

624. Were the magistrates introduced as a body or as individuals?—They were chosen in the public meeting, I believe, individually.

625. Were the clergy chosen individually, or as a body?—They were chosen at first individually, but afterwards the committee added both parties officially in their public capacity as magistrates and as clergymen.

626. How many magistrates were there in the committee?—Five.

627. Do you know how many clergy there were in it?—I think there would be about 18 or 20 who attended and took an active interest in the management of the committee.

628. Were there any county gentlemen in the committee?—Yes, a considerable number.

629. About how many?—I should suppose from 25 to 30, or 35.

630. Do you know how many inhabitants of Paisley, independently of the magistratates, and clergy and county gentlemen, there might be in the committee?

mittee?—I cannot say precisely; but I suppose from 12 to 15, or something like that, in addition to the magistrates.

631. Then from this committee there were two sub-committees, called the "Labour Committee" and "the Store Committee" appointed?—There were several sub-committees, but there were two sub-committees bearing those names.

632. In the course of Mr. Twisleton's proceedings, he recommended a smaller committee to be formed; can you recollect of whom that committee was formed?—At the time he was about to leave the town, he intimated that a new committee must now be formed; that his duties in Paisley were now at an end; and he took as the basis of the new committee, the Store and Labour Sub-committees, and the magistrates ex-officio.

633. Did he recommend that they should add any to that number?—Yes; those parties making 14, were to elect from the inhabitants at large, or any portion of them, six, making 20 in all.

634. Do you recollect the date of Mr. Twisleton's first attending the Relief Committee in Paisley?—It was on the 31st of 3d month (March).

635. Is that the time you allude to, of his having taken upon him what you call his official duties?—No, that was the first time he attended the meeting of the Relief Committee, and intimated to them and to the magistrates, that he was there to take the superintendence over those private funds which had been subscribed in London.

636. When did he enter upon what you call his official duties?—On the 9th of May.

637. How long did his official duties continue?—Till the 15th of June.

638. During that time had Mr. Twisleton the assistance of any committee of the inhabitants?—He had during the time he took upon himself the administration of the funds, the assistance of those two sub-committees, the Store and Labour Committee.

639. What funds did you understand that he administered in that period?—At the time that he took upon himself the relief of the unemployed, he intimated to us that the Government had now taken on itself the feeding of the unemployed and destitute people of the town; those were the precise words he made use of.

640. Did he state with what funds he was about to provide food for the unemployed?—No, he did not specify any thing further than what the words of the minute are. He intimated that Government had now taken upon itself the feeding of the unemployed population of Paisley from stores.

641. Are you certain that he made use of the term "Government"?—Yes.

642. Can you state to the Committee what funds Mr. Twisleton administered during that period?—I can state nothing to the Committee, further than from the intimation made to us by the London Relief Committee, that they had supplied the funds; but that was after he had withdrawn from the town.

643. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Those funds were not received from local subscriptions during that time?—No.

644. *Chairman.*] You are understood to say, that you afterwards ascertained that the funds were supplied by the London Relief Committee?—Yes, we afterwards ascertained that.

645. Were you, as provost, or the magistrates, as a body, consulted in the administration of those funds during Mr. Twisleton's residence in Paisley?—No, no further than that two of the magistrates who were in the Labour Committee were consulted as to the management of the Labour Committee; but we had no control whatever as regarded the general administration of the funds, nor did we know any thing about it.

646. Can you inform the Committee whether any clergymen were consulted in the administration of those funds?—I am quite sure none of the clergymen were consulted.

647. Were you a member of either the Labour or the Store Committee?—I was a member of the Labour Committee.

648. You were one of the two magistrates on that committee?—I was.

649. Can you inform the Committee whether the magistrates, as a body, were favourable to the use of tickets to relieve the destitute, or thought that they should be relieved from stores?—The opinion of the magistrates and the inhabitants of the town was almost universally in favour of the people being relieved by tickets, as they were at the first, and not from stores.

 650. Can

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650. Can you state to the Committee what opinion the clergy entertained as to the use of stores or tickets?—The clergy were just of the same opinion as the magistrates, and the greater part of the population; I think there was scarcely an exception; there might be one or two, but not more than one or two, in support of the introduction of the stores.

651. Will you inform the Committee whether the question was between tickets given out upon grocers and other dealers in provisions and stores, or money in place of tickets?—The people were relieved, so long as the relief continued in the hands of the Local Committee, only by orders upon provision dealers for food.

652. Did those tickets point out certain articles only which were to be got?—Yes; they were restricted to bread, oatmeal and potatoes.

653. Had they the use of any money besides to apply to the purchase of any other articles?—The obtaining money or any other necessary in addition to those things, was entirely left as an arrangement between the party and the grocer he might deal with.

654. Had the magistrates, or any of them, any personal interest in whether the people should be supplied by tickets or stores?—Not the smallest.

655. Could the clergy have any pecuniary or personal interest in the one more than the other?—None that I am aware of.

656. You are understood to say that none of the clergy were included in the committee which Mr. Twisleton appointed?—No portion of them.

657. Were any steps taken by the magistrates, or by the clergy themselves, that a proportion of their number should be included in Mr. Twisleton's committee?—I believe that, along with myself and the general population, the magistrates were desirous to have the assistance of the clergy, in the selection of some portion of them out of the six that were to be chosen by the fourteen, but none of them were elected: an application was afterwards made to the London Relief Committee as soon as the new committee was fairly constituted, in terms of their own printed regulation, to see whether the clergy of Paisley should not be placed upon the Relief Committee of the town, the same as they had laid it down that the clergy of every other town was to form a portion of such committees.

658. Can you point out that application in the correspondence which was had between the magistrates of Paisley and the London Relief Committee?—Yes, I think it was about the beginning of 6th month (July); the letter was ordered by the committee on the 1st of July; I believe the date of the letter will be found to the the 7th.

*See* App. p. 144.

659. Be so good as to look at the passage in page 7, of No. 3, of the printed papers: "We have received the London Committee's printed regulations on which they grant aid, and we observed it is provided by the first regulation, 'that a Local Committee, consisting of the magistrates, clergy and principal inhabitants, be organized in every district applying for relief;' we beg to be informed whether, under the regulation, it be understood that the committee here, previously organized by Mr. Twisleton, is to be superseded by one to be formed as pointed out in the above regulation? If the present committee is not thereby superseded, are its remaining members to add new members to fill the place of those who have already resigned, or may yet do so? and, in particular, ought the clergy to form part of the committee? none of the clergy are in the present committee"?—That is the passage to which I refer.

*See* App. p. 146.

660. Do those words in page 9 of the same paper constitute the answer to that, "The Committee are unwilling to suggest any change in the local committee organized by Mr. Twisleton, further than to concur with the Paisley Committee in the propriety of four gentlemen being added to fill the places of those who have seceded; but they deem it expedient that these gentlemen should be selected by the Paisley Committee, feeling well assured that they will not select any person who has joined in the popular clamour, employed to induce the committee to abandon its duties;" do you consider that as a reply to that part of your letter with regard to the clergy?—That was the only reply we received; we did not conceive that, that warranted us in adding any portion of the clergy to the committee, and I may just add, that this portion of the correspondence of the London Committee gave very great dissatisfaction to the most active individuals who had taken an interest in relieving the destitution of the town, that some of them immediately withdrew their services, and it was made quite evident to us that a private correspondence had been carried on by some unknown

unknown parties regarding the management in Paisley, because no communication had ever been sent from the Paisley Committee intimating that four members had resigned.

661. State to the Committee what you mean by a private communication as to four members?—Some intimation must have been given to the London Committee that did not come through the hands of the Paisley Committee.

662. Do you mean to state to the Committee that you and others believed that some private information had led the London Committee to understand that four members had resigned, whilst the committee itself did not give that intimation?—Yes, we were under the impression that some underhand misrepresentations of the management in Paisley were made, both to the Government and to the London Relief Committee; but this answer at once proved to us that the London Committee had received information from some quarters which did not pass through the hands of our secretary.

663. Inasmuch as that fact of the resignation of four gentlemen was not stated by your secretary?—Yes.

664. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Will you refer to the passage, "Daily meetings are being held amongst the unemployed, and even threats are held out, indicative of danger to the public peace; the committee itself is disunited, and several of its most active members have retired from the management in displeasure with the extent of the reduction;" and also to the words, "Are its remaining members to add new members to fill the place of those who have already resigned?" and state whether that does not, as conveyed by yourself and the other gentlemen, convey to the London Committee an intimation that the Paisley Committee was not only disunited, but that some of its most active members had retired from its management?—Yes; I quite admit that it conveyed that intimation to the London Committee, but it conveyed no intimation as to the number four; and, in addition, the local committee felt hurt by the reflection thrown out in this paragraph, which says, "But they deem it expedient that these gentlemen should be selected by the Paisley Committee, feeling well assured that they will not select any person who has joined in the popular clamour, employed to induce the committee to abandon its duties." And there is even a more offensive expression in this letter, which the members of the committee, who had taken an interest in supplying the wants of the poor, felt hurt at; it is in the first paragraph of the letter, dated "Manufacturers' Relief Committee, 11th July;" it is as follows: "The Manufacturers' Relief Committee are deeply sensible of the great embarrassment which must be experienced by the Paisley Relief Committee in attempting to collect local subscriptions, and in regulating the distribution of relief in a committee, the members of which are described to be disunited in opinion, though acting in the midst of an excited people, who urge them to relinquish their duties, and thus to share with the populace the guilt of the disorganization of society, and of the plunder which would ensue." Parties there, in the situation of magistrates, elders of congregations, and all the men of business who had taken an active interest in the affairs of the Paisley Relief Committee, felt very much at that implication being thrown out against them, because they merely differed in opinion as to the mode of supplying the people with provisions.

*See* App. p. 145.

665. *Chairman.*] In what you have stated from page 9, with respect to the last paragraph of the letter with the initials "W. H. H.," do you consider this allegation to have been applied to the clergy, and to have been the cause of their having been left out of the committee?—It applied to the clergy in general, with that portion of the inhabitants who thought along with the clergy, and who I formerly described as those who had taken the warmest interest in the relief of the destitute.

*See* App. p. 146.

666. The words to which your attention is called are these: "Feeling well assured that they will not select any person who has joined in the popular clamour, employed to induce the committee to abandon its duties;" did you understand those words to apply to the clergy especially, and to be the reason why they were left out of the committee?—They had been left out of the committee long before this; of course they could have no influence whatever in keeping them out.

667. Could it have any influence in their being brought into the Committee?—No.

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668. You have stated that the clergy were of the same opinion with yourself and many others as to tickets being preferable to stores?—Yes.

669. Do you mean to state that their holding those opinions could be pointed at here, and could be considered by the committee of so much importance as to occasion their not being elected in place of any of the seceders?—No, I do not think that had any influence in preventing the committee electing the clergy; but the sentence in which the London Committee state their unwillingness to disturb the Paisley Committee, as it then existed, had.

670. Can you inform the Committee whether there was any resolution of the committee to keep out any particular individuals including the clergy?—No; the committee never came to any resolution to exclude any portion of the inhabitants or the clergy; but it was the opinion of the majority, and it was likewise the opinion of Edward Twisleton, that the clergy should form no portion of the committee; but I must add, that there was no vacancy in the committee at the time this letter was received from London, and even after that, only two of the members resigned; we had not a vacancy of four.

671. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] How do you reconcile that statement with the statement made in the letter signed by yourself, that several of its most active members had retired from the management?—At the time this letter was sent off, dated the 7th of July, four of the members of the committee had verbally said they would not continue to attend, but they never had sent in any resignation; but two of them sent in their resignation as soon as the answer dated the 11th came back reflecting on their character and conduct.

672. *Chairman.*] Do you mean to inform the committee that four of the members threatened to leave, but only two actually did, and that those two did not actually resign till the letter of the 11th of July was received from the London Relief Committee?—Yes.

673. You stated that the fact of there being no clergyman on the committee was brought before the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, and that in reply to the communication the letter quoted was received, and you stated in addition, that no clergymen were elected to fill the vacancies which had occurred in the Local Committee?—There were not.

674. Did you take the course of electing no clergymen to fill those vacancies in consequence of your feeling yourself precluded by the letter which has been quoted from electing clergymen?—Distinctly.

675. You considered that that letter pointed to clergymen, and that prevented your so filling those vacancies?—Distinctly.

676. You have stated to the Committee, that the majority of the Paisley Relief Committee, along with Mr. Twisleton, were unfavourable to the clergy forming part of the new committee?—Yes.

677. Can you state more particularly to this Committee the grounds for that opinion?—I am quite positive that opinion was frequently expressed; it is not matter of doubt or supposition.

678. By whom was that expressed?—By both; the majority of the new committee, and by Edward Twisleton.

679. You have mentioned to the Committee, that the majority of the Paisley Relief Committee and Mr. Twisleton were unfavourable to the introduction of clergymen in the newly-formed committee, and in the last paragraph but two of that letter of the 7th of July, there are these words addressed to the London Committee: "If the present committee is not thereby superseded, are its remaining members to add new members to fill the place of those who have already resigned, or may yet do so? and in particular ought the clergy to form part of the committee? None of the clergy are in the present committee;" are the Committee to understand that no communication had taken place with respect to the clergy not being in the committee?—That application to the London Committee which has just been read, I think was sent at my own suggestion, and it was from a desire that we should be enabled to obtain the services of a portion of the clergy of the town in our labours, and this on account of the very valuable services we had received from the clergy of every denomination during the existence of the previous committee.

*See* App. p. 144.

680. Can you account to the Committee for this letter being written by three members of the committee in favour of bringing in the clergy, when the majority, with Mr. Twisleton, was against their being brought in?—The three members who signed that letter, and most of the other correspondence, were three members appointed

appointed to conduct all the correspondence that might take place under the name of a corresponding committee.

681. To wit, yourself, Bailie Murray and Mr. Sheriff Campbell?—Yes.

682. Was this letter, dated July the 7th, written on the part of the corresponding committee, or by the general committee?—It was written by special appointment of the general committee, and all those topics were agreed to be urged by the general committee.

683. Had the general committee seen this previous to its being sent off?—No, I do not suppose the letter was read to them.

684. Had they expressed their opinion in regard to the admission of the clergy?—No, I think not.

685. In what way did the committee urge the return of the clergy if the majority were against it?—They did not urge the return of the clergymen; but I took the printed regulations of the London Committee, and pointed out to them, and got it agreed to that we should take the opinion of the London Committee, and intimate to them our position that we had no clergy, and desire to know whether we should not add some to the new committee.

686. In the third line of the last paragraph but two, on page 7, the paragraph begins with—"We have received the London Committee's printed regulations," and so on; then you find the words, "First Regulation," the word, "*first*" being put in *italics*, and in the third line the word "*clergy*" is also put in *italics*; were those words put in *italics* for the purpose of drawing the attention of the London Committee to the desire of the Relief Committee at Paisley to have the clergy introduced?—We were most desirous of obtaining their permission to have the Relief Committee at Paisley constituted according to their own regulations.

*See* App. p. 144.

687. Was the general tenor of this letter of the 7th of July in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the Relief Committee?—When I brought under the notice of the committee the printed regulations of the London Relief Committee, of course the majority agreed to the motion that an application should be made to the London Relief Committee; upon that point I do not think there was any opposition.

688. Mr. *Hastie.*] Did the paragraph in this letter arise from the wish of the Local Committee in every way to comply with the regulations of the London Relief Committee?—So far as I was concerned in bringing the propriety of this application before the Local Committee, I was desirous both to comply with the regulations of the General Relief Committee, and, as I formerly stated, particularly desirous to obtain again the services of the clergy.

689. *Chairman.*] Of your own knowledge do you know in what way the clergy who had been upon the original committee felt in conseqnence of none of their number being in the new committee?—I know of my own knowledge that several of them felt very much hurt, in consequence of being excluded from taking an active part in the relief of the town; and for this reason, that many of them had members of their congregations requiring relief, and in whose relief they took a warm interest, and being excluded from the committee, they had no means of assisting them.

690. You have stated that yourself and brother magistrates were against the introduction of stores, as recommended by Mr. Twisleton; will you inform the Committee how afterwards, entertaining those opinions, the system of stores came to be preferred to that of tickets?—When the introduction of stores was finally carried by the committee, it was entered into by myself and by others who had entertained an opinion against the stores entirely as matter of necessity, and I divided with the majority for the introduction of stores against the minority, because I then considered it was the only means left whereby we could continue to relieve the destitution of the town.

691. Had you and others changed your opinion in consequence of the position in which the monies at Mr. Twisleton's disposal were offered for the use of the destitute?—I did not change my opinion, but I was obliged from necessity to change my mode of acting.

692. During the administration of the funds under Mr. Twisleton's charge, were you, as magistrates, made acquainted with the amount of the monies expended?—No, we never heard a word about that, until after he had withdrawn, when an intimation of the amount he had expended was sent to us from the London Relief Committee.

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693. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Did the magistrates, as such, feel that they had a right to expect any official intimation of the sums distributed by a gentleman not sent down officially?—I may mention in reply to that question, that, as in Scotland the management of the poor within the burghs is exclusively vested in the magistrates, of course they did feel themselves rather slighted, that a system of relief was carried on without their being consulted, or being aware of any thing about it; at the same time, so long as the destitution was relieved, as it was during the administration of Edward Twisleton, we were extremely willing they should be so relieved, though not made aware of those facts.

694. *Chairman.*] Was not Mr. Twisleton's conduct while in Paisley extremely polite and satisfactory to yourself and other magistrates and inhabitants?—Yes, I was perfectly satisfied with him; I believe he did his duty as ably and effectively as any man could do.

695. Was not he exceedingly kind individually, as well as officially, to the wants of the people?—Yes, I know many instances where he relieved the wants of persons in destitution from his own private means.

696. Was he not very active and industrious in the discharge of his duty?—He was one of the most earnest and industrious men in the discharge of his duties I think likely to be found in the country.

697. On his announcing his being about to depart from Paisley, and that his duties had ceased, was not a vote of thanks tendered to him for his own conduct, and also tendered to him as the representative of the Government, which it was supposed at the time he was?—He received a vote of thanks for his own conduct at the time he left the town, but along with the Government he received a vote of thanks on the 9th of May, when he took upon himself the relieving the destitution, and when he relieved the then committee of any further care upon that subject.

698. Can you state the words of that vote of thanks which was tendered to him as representing the Government?—The clerk is in attendance with the minutes, which will be more satisfactory than my recollection of it.

699. Was not the vote of thanks to Mr. Twisleton, as representing the Government, tendered to him on the 9th of May, when he made the announcement to which you previously alluded?—Yes.

Mr. *Robert Wilson*; further Examined.

Mr. *Robert Wilson.*

700. *Chairman.*] WILL you turn to the minute of the 9th of May respecting Mr. Twisleton, and read it?—"Mr. Twisleton, the Government commissioner, stated to the meeting, that hereafter the committee had resolved to take upon themselves the charge of feeding the unemployed population of Paisley from stores; it was moved that the thanks of this committee be tendered to the members of Her Majesty's Government for the resolution they have now come to, to administer relief to the destitute unemployed of Paisley, now communicated by Mr. Twisleton, which motion, being seconded, was carried unanimously." At a subsequent meeting there was a vote of thanks to Mr. Twisleton.

701. Will you read that resolution?—"At a meeting of the Relief Committee, 30th June 1842, the committee unanimously voted to Edward Twisleton, esq., one of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners of England, and to Thomas Walton Ramsey, esq., deputy Commissary-General, their thanks for the great attention, unwearied application and constant urbanity manifested by them during their residence in Paisley in their official management of the distributions for the relief of the unemployed and destitute part of that population; voted also, that this mark of respect be communicated to those gentlemen by the Corresponding Committee."

Mr. *John Henderson*; further Examined.

Mr. *J. Henderson.*

702. *Chairman.*]--(To Mr. *Henderson.*)—HAVING heard those minutes read by the secretary to the Relief Committee, are the Committee to understand that the dates are correct, and that those are the resolutions to which you refer?—Yes, I refer to those resolutions; I find I was in error as to the vote of thanks to Edward Twisleton on the 9th of May.

703. Are you a member of the Paisley Relief Committee at present?—No.

704. When did you resign?—Sometime about the close of December last.

705. What were your reasons?—The reasons of my resignation are recorded in the letter I sent in, and as it is inserted in the minutes, and I should prefer that

that being read to my stating the substance; that portion of the letter which is dated the 30th of December, and which I would just read to the Committee, is this, "that I resigned in consequence of the Relief Committee being unable longer to afford such an allowance to the unemployed as will preserve their lives, and prevent begging, stealing, and other unlawful practices; as the only use of a relief committee is to prevent the existence of such a state of things."

706. At the time you left the Relief Committee, had any persons, or any particular classes of persons, been removed?—No; at the last meeting I attended and acted as chairman, a resolution was unanimously come to, that the relief to be administered by the committee should be administered equally to all classes who were in an equal state of destitution.

707. Without any distinction of country?—Yes.

708. Since you have resigned, do you officially know of any classes having been struck off the Relief List in Paisley?—Yes, I know it officially. At the same meeting at which my letter of resignation was read, viz., on the 3d of January, it was proposed to strike off all the Irish who had been less than ten years in the town, and likewise all the men who had been twelve months only on the Relief List.

709. Did that resolution include their dependents?—It included the dependents of the Irish, but not the dependents of the natives of the town.

710. Can you, of your own knowledge, state to this Committee what the effect was upon those classes so struck off?—The effect upon the Irish has been the reducing them to a state of absolute destitution—in many cases, to the turning them out of their houses, and in other instances to the reducing them to put the effects they had in pawn, or to dispose of them; and, as many of them have expressed themselves to me, placed them in a position that they did not know how they did live, and likewise led to a system of very general begging in the town and neighbourhood.

711. Did those parties receive any intimation of the intention of the Relief Committee to strike them off?—The natives of Ireland received a week's notice; but the men who had been 12 months on the list received no notice at all, and many, when they went down that morning to get the means of obtaining their daily food, not having had, as some of them stated to me, a meal of food for a day, and some of them two days before; they were sent back without any thing; I myself gave relief to about 40 who applied to me in those circumstances.

712. Did you make any distinction in respect to country?—No.

713. Are the Committee to understand that no allowances were given to those persons the natives of the town?—No allowance was given them. Those unemployed persons who had been thus struck off held a meeting on the day following in one of the churches of the town. It was very cold weather, very severe frost, and the ground covered with snow. They sent a deputation to me as chief magistrate from that meeting, requesting that the magistrates would interfere, and take some steps for their assistance; and I called on the chairman of the Relief Committee, the magistrate next in seniority to myself; and, after some consultation, he agreed to take it upon his own personal responsibility to give them an allowance of fire for a day or two, and a small allowance of food to those who were in the most destitute circumstances; and by that means we were able to get them to retire to their homes, otherwise they threatened that they would not leave the place they were assembled in; and I should have been afraid a breach of the peace might have been that night committed.

714. Can you state the date of that meeting?—I can state the day of the week; the men were turned off on the Wednesday and the Thursday, and that meeting was held upon the Friday in that same week.

715. When the second magistrate relieved those parties in the way you have stated, do you know from what fund the relief was given?—From the funds of the Relief Committee he took upon himself to give assistance to that extent.

716. In the confident expectation of being repaid?—Yes, that he should get a vote of indemnity.

717. What was the general character of those persons who were struck off?—The general character of them was that of the very poorest portion of the population; several of them were men, perhaps, of no great character, and an opportunity of begging was rather a boon to them than otherwise. Others of them were quite the reverse; and I believe would almost have died of want before they went a begging.

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718. You have already stated the condition they were reduced to in consequence of that, to be a state of the greatest destitution?—Absolute starvation; and but for the relief given by private parties in the town, some of them must have died of starvation.

719. So far as you know, were the Relief Committee induced to take this step by the improvement in the trade you have spoken of?—No, there had been no improvement in trade whatever at that period, nor for two or three weeks afterwards.

720. Was there any improvement as regarding that class so struck off?—Not the slightest.

721. Was there any distinction made as to the age of those parties struck off?—No, not that I am aware of.

722. You have stated that some of the people were removed from their houses in consequence of distress; what has been the conduct of the landlords in general to the unemployed and destitute, who could not pay their rents?—The landlords generally, who have had the working population for their tenants during the last two years, have been obliged just to submit to the loss of the rent, to forego their usual claim of rent; and I find from inquiries at factors collecting the largest rents and taking charge of much property in the town, that the rents collected during the last two years, have fallen to from one-third to one-half of their former amount.

723. Can you state what is about the rental of the town of Paisley?—The gross rental of the town, within the Parliamentary boundaries, I find to be 76,000*l.*; but a very large proportion is landed property, public works; and it includes the railway that goes through that portion of the boundary, two miles of railway. I suppose the rental of house property within the town will run to 40,000*l.* or about 45,000*l.*

724. Is that property subject to poor's-rate?—No; in Scotland proprietors do not pay poor's-rate on their property; within burgh boundaries it is not payable unless the proprietor resides within the burgh, and not one-half of the property within the burgh pays poor's-rates at all.

725. The property you have spoken of, amounting to 76,000*l.*, is subject to the tax for gaols, and so on?—Yes.

726. Mr. *Patrick Stewart.*] Is all that amount liable to the prison-rate?—So far as it can be made available; not more than 60,000*l.* out of that can be made available, for it falls on a portion of the population unable to pay any thing; such is the reduced state of the population in that respect, that I have known instances, within two days before I came away, of persons called upon to pay the prison assessment, pawning their shirts, and their petticoats, to raise the means of paying that rate.

727. What is the amount of your police rental?—Something about 35,000*l.*

728. Mr. *Young.*] Would that sum be rateable to the poor's-rate?—No; the police boundary is quite limited, compared with the Parliamentary boundary.

729. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The difference between the 35,000*l.* rated to the police and the 75,000*l.*, the gross value of the town, arises from the difference of the boundary?—Yes.

730. The 35,000*l.* is that part of Paisley within the limits of the police boundary?—Yes; I may mention, for the information of the Committee, that within the Parliamentary boundary we have one entire landed estate of Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, a large estate; the estates of the Earl of Glasgow, a great portion of the estates of the Marquis of Abercorn, and some other landed estates of considerable magnitude, besides a vast number of other lands held by small proprietors, which are not rateable either for police or poor's-rate. There is one singular thing in our neighbourhood; in our County Police Act there is a part intermediate between the Parliamentary boundary and the town police boundary, which pays no police-rate whatever.

731. *Chairman.*] In the course of this investigation it has appeared that very large sums of money have come from the Relief Committee in London, and from other sources, in comparison with that which has been raised within the town of Paisley, in the period of the present distress; can you account in any way for the richer inhabitants of Paisley having apparently given so little in aid of their distressed brethren?—I may state, in answer to the question, that, for a great many years past, in proportion to its population, Paisley has been found one of the poorest towns, I believe, in the United Kingdom, but particularly since 1841, when almost the entire portion of our leading people in business failed. We are now

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left in the condition of being nearly an universally working population. Out of 112 manufacturing firms who were solvent and doing business in July 1841, 67 failed, and out of 40 persons ranked in the Directory as merchants, 20 failed, and those were the leading men. Then there have been a great many failures amongst the shopkeepers, and even some of the proprietors of large public works; but these were connected with the business of the town. These losses, in conjunction with the loss universally sustained by the proprietors of house property, has rendered the town quite unable to raise money for the relief of the destitute; and many of the proprietors of houses have been reduced so, that, on account of the obligations that were upon their property, and the less amount of rent they had to receive, that both publicly and privately, in many cases they were under the necessity of receiving assistance to keep themselves alive. As an additional instance, as a proof of the poverty of the town, and its inability to contribute to the assistance of the unemployed, I may just mention this fact, that, out of 36 friendly societies, institutions, set apart for the purpose of maintaining the population in independence when attacked with disease, and at death, 18 of these have been dissolved during the last three years, and out of the remaining 18, not more than four are at this moment in a state of healthy operation; the remaining 14 or 15 have been obliged to suspend their laws, which would strike their members off, if they did not pay up, because, if they were to enforce those laws, the members would be obliged to be struck off, and rather than allow the money they have in stock to be lost to them, they have felt it advisable to come to that determination, or to break up, and divide the stock. These were funds provided by the more industrious and independent of the population, who had made this provision to maintain themselves independence during the vicissitudes of life, in sickness or in old age.

732. Supposing the distresses you have mentioned had not occurred, would the parties who have been subject to the distress you have described, have been likely to assist in the support of those who have become unemployed and destitute?—Most distinctly; and even in the midst of all their poverty, the very poorest of the poor, in consequence of the immense mass of destitution, have contributed largely to keep their relations alive; hundreds of cases have come to my knowledge where the very poor have lent their neighbours a small part of their oatmeal, or lent them a penny to purchase potatoes; and one of those Irish families struck off, was a woman belonging to the episcopalian church, a woman that evidently had been brought up in better circumstances than the ordinary class of Irishwomen; she waited upon us when we were about to inquire into her case, and all that herself and her family of four children had got during the day, was a halfpenny-farthing's worth of potatoes, given her by a poor neighbour. As an additional instance of this I may just mention, to show the inability of the people to contribute, a return I have here, as to the property now at their disposal: I find that in the last five years, the amount of property that has been put in pawn for the purpose of relieving themselves in those emergencies, has sunk, at the rate of money given out, from 510 *l.* to 188 *l.*; it has been gradually going down, and the number of pledges in corresponding months has sunk from 3,966 to 1,792. I find that the pawnbrokers complain now as much as any class of the community, that the people have nothing left to pledge, and that the little business still doing is in a shirt, or a handkerchief, or some trifling thing that in ordinary times the people would never have pawned. I may mention in addition, that in one of these cases which came to our knowledge without any inquiry, of a person having pawned his shirt to pay his prison-money; within two days of my coming up the son of this person being refused relief in the terms of the resolution of January the 6th,—that man told us that he was maintained only by the assistance of his father; and that man's father I know to be the person who had pawned his shirt to pay his prison assessment.

733. Do you mean the Committee to understand, that there is a great amount of destitution, and many individual cases similar to those you have just related?—Thousands of them.

734. In the former part of your evidence you have mentioned that public begging had increased very much of late years, has it increased since the commencement of the distress in 1841?—Yes, both the public begging and frequent claims for private assistance have increased very much since that time; at the time when the Relief Committee was in full operation during 1841 and 1842, as chief magistrate of the town, and in conjunction with the other magistrates, we

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made it a condition that juvenile begging should be prevented, and in all cases the police had instructions to take up children found begging, and if they were found in destitution we gave them relief; if they were not in destitution we punished the parents.

735. You state that public begging has increased since the period of destitution; has it increased since those classes you have mentioned were struck off the Relief Fund?—There has been almost a system of universal begging, at least, almost universal application to every person in business, or who had the means of giving assistance since the 6th of January.

736. Was any sanction given by yourself or others to that practice?—No particular sanction, further than that, when the parties found themselves in destitution, and applied to us for assistance, I, along with several of the other magistrates and people of the town, gave a small subscription to assist them for the day, and that I believe, was converted into a means of public begging, and carried over the country, and applications made on the faith of it in all the surrounding district.

737. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Did you give that assistance entirely in a private capacity?—No, I was applied to as chief magistrate.

738. *Chairman.*] Did you give sanction to it as chief magistrate?—I gave sanction to it only by putting my name to a small sum.

739. Will you look at that paper now shewn to you, a printed paper containing a good many names of persons; did you sanction by your authority that mode of public begging?—I sanctioned it with my authority, so far as the putting down my name was concerned, but there was nothing added in the way of authorizing the parties to beg by me; I merely subscribed my name with the sum which I gave; it might be assumed by others as a kind of authority.

740. Do you consider those documents put before you such as would induce the police of the town to permit the parties presenting them to ask for money in the streets and places without being interfered with?—Distinctly; the police would never venture to interfere with them after that; but independently of that both the county and town police had been obliged to put their office in abeyance as regarded begging for several months in our neighbourhood.

741. Do you know that the parties whose names appear upon this list authorized this system?—I have a sheet here with the names of the whole of them; I believe the first are, so far as I believe, their signatures are all correct, except one, and that is the second magistrate who gave the money, but did not put down his own name.

742. Has the paper in your hand been certified by the town clerk?—No, this is the original document.

743. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You state that one of those names is not signed by the party?—Yes.

744. Will you look at that certificate annexed to the other copy, is that correct?—It is correct, as it regards the contribution, but not the signature; Baillie Murray did not sign that himself.

745. *Chairman.*] Did you consider that document in your hand emanating from the town clerk, as an authority for the parties receiving it to go round and get money in the way referred to?—Distinctly; I regarded it as that; I suppose it was so meant.

746. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Would you consider that with your own name put to it as equal in authority with that containing the certificate?—No, it is not equal to this in authority, for mine here, is merely a simple subscription.

747. Mr. *Young.*] Then the authority for begging consists in the certificate of the town clerk?—Yes, in as far as the certificate states that this petition for assistance has been approved of by these parties.

748. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] What would be the practical effect of that certificate?—The practical effect of my own signature, and the certificate of the town clerk, was that the parties were really in want, and that the parties in relieving them would be granting them needful assistance.

749. *Chairman.*] And authorizing their begging?—Yes, distinctly.

750. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Would the petition, with your signature, have had the same effect without the certificate?—Certainly, not the same effect.

751. *Chairman.*] Did you ever see such a certificate before?—No, I never did.

752. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Those petitions have been printed, have they not?—Yes.

753. *Chairman.*]

753. *Chairman.*] Did you, in your magisterial capacity, in conjunction with the magistrates, as a member of the Relief Committee, intimate to the Government, and also to the London Relief Committee, that unless more funds were supplied public begging must of necessity take place in Paisley?—Yes, we did so, in as pointed and respectful language as we could possibly couch our application.

754. Was it a magisterial communication, or from the Relief Committee?—From both.

755. Was it by both those bodies that the Government and the London Relief Committee, were made aware that the act of public begging would necessarily follow, unless more funds were supplied?—Distinctly; public begging, or something worse.

756. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Can you inform the Committee what was the date of those communications?—It would be within 10 or 15 days of the period when the public begging commenced.

757. Can you inform the Committee the nature of the communication you received from the Government in reply to that?—Yes, I think the import of the communication was that the locality must supply the funds required in the locality, and that the Government could not interfere further than they had done. I recollect perfectly that the communication to our letter on the subject stated, that the Government had no funds at their disposal for the district.

758. Did the Government call upon the magistrates or the Local Committee, to take means for the preservation of the peace?—Yes.

759. Were the proper means taken?—We did hold a meeting with the two sheriffs of the county, before the begging took place, and took measures to see whether our constabulary force was properly organized; that was the only force that we had at our disposal.

760. Has any breach of the peace occurred?—Not the slightest.

761. Then those fears communicated to the Government have not been realized?—No, as far as regards a breach of the peace.

762. *Chairman.*] Have you taken any means, in conjunction with the sheriff, to prevent begging?—No means have been taken to prevent begging, either with us or in the neighbouring towns. In Greenock the magistrates have given a public intimation, under the authority of the town clerk, to parties to beg either in larger or smaller parties, so long as they keep themselves peaceable; I have seen that in the local papers, officially signed. I see that the printed papers before the committee contain the correspondence with the Government to which I have referred; the letters are dated the 5th of December and the 7th of December, in pages 29 and 30.

*See* App. pp. 166, 167.

763. A statement in figures was shown to you yesterday, which made it appear that large sums had been sent for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Paisley, coming from the London Relief Committee, from Her Majesty's Ministers as private individuals, and from various quarters, as well as from the county of Renfrew and from the town of Paisley; and one of those statements showed that the sum afforded individually from the town of Paisley and the county of Renfrew was very small, as compared with the sum from the Relief Committee in London; in spite of all those large sums having been sent for the relief of Paisley, was not the allowance to the destitute as low as a 1*d.* and 1½*d.*, and never so high as 2*d.*, during the whole period of the depression?—No, it never was.

764. In speaking of the average allowance of 1*d.*, 1½*d.*, and nearly 2*d.*, do you allude to the whole period, and to the number at each successive period?—Yes.

765. Did not the Relief Committee, as well as the magistrates, state very strongly to the London Relief Committee that, but for want of funds in their possession, they were desirous of increasing the amount they gave from 1*d.*?—They stated, as expressly as they possibly could, in their letter to the London Relief Committee, their desire not to reduce from the average, first of 2*d.*, and then of 1½*d.*; a penny is the rate just now.

766. They stated to the London Relief Committee their desire not to be compelled to reduce to 1*d.*?—Yes; from the inability of such an allowance to maintain the people, and keep them peaceable in their houses.

767. So far as the county gentlemen, who were members of the Relief Committee, assisted in the relief of the unemployed in Paisley, did those county gentlemen assist in keeping up the rates or reducing the rates?—The majority of the

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the members of the committee belonging to the county, did not show any great zeal to keep up the rates; they were inclined to give themselves as little trouble about the population of Paisley as they possibly could.

768. Did they take part in favour of stores in preference to tickets?—Yes, almost the whole of them did.

769. Mr. *P. M. Stewart.*] Who were the county members of the Relief Committee, who rather endeavoured to reduce than to advance the rates?—I would say the whole of them almost, and particularly the members connected with the county who were present at the last county meeting, held on the 20th of December last, when the sum voted by the county on that occasion left the Paisley Committee no alternative but to reduce the rates, or else to continue them on their own personal responsibility.

770. What was the sum then voted by the county meeting to the Paisley Relief Committee?—Two hundred pounds a week for two weeks to come.

771. What was the sum then received by the Relief Committee from the committee in London?—I think, 200*l.*; and the expenditure, at the very lowest rate, of the Paisley Committee, was 500*l.*

772. Was that 200*l.* voted by the county meeting in reduction of the former allowance, or in addition to the former allowance?—We required from the county 300*l.* a week to keep up the allowance the people were then getting, and we got only 200*l.*, and that only for two weeks.

773. You applied for 300*l.*?—We required that, from that or some other source.

774. Was that 200*l.* in reduction of the former weekly allowance of the county, or in addition to the former weekly allowance from the county?—For the three previous weeks from the time we had been referred to the county by the Government, as the only quarter to which we could look for assistance, we had received 300*l.* a week. At the meeting on the 20th of December, when the Government finally threw upon the county the necessity of raising the supplies, the relief to Paisley was reduced to 200*l.* a week, and that for two weeks only; and we have never got all that money in yet.

775. That reduction was accounted for by the necessity of the case, the assessment being exhausted, was it not?—I urged upon the county meeting, that the reduction left the committee no alternative but that of reducing the limited allowance the people were then getting.

776. The Paisley Committee had previously stated their case to be one of debt, to some extent, and the county had relieved them from that by a vote of 1,200*l.*?—Yes; that was in the early part of December, they gave a vote of 1,200*l.* to pay off the existing debt.

777. What was the amount of that debt?—I think, something about 800*l.*; but a portion of that 1,200*l.* was to carry the population on to the 20th of December, when the result of the application to Government was to be made known.

778. The 1,200*l.* was, in the first instance, to pay off the debt, and to carry on the maintenance of the people?—Distinctly.

779. At the subsequent meeting, the vote of the county was limited to 200*l.* per week?—Yes, for two weeks.

780. When was the next meeting?—There has never been a meeting since.

781. When you say the county members of the Relief Committee rather endeavoured to reduce the pittance allowed to the poor, was there not, at that meeting, a general expression of commiseration, and admission on all hands that the allowance was too small, but that the reduction was in consequence of the necessity of the case?—It was, of course, for want of money the reduction had to be made.

782. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You stated that the Government had thrown the relief of Paisley on the county?—Yes.

783. When was that announcement made?—It was communicated to the Vice-Lieutenant of the county now present, and communicated by him to the county.

784. When you say that the Government had thrown upon the county the necessity of raising the supplies, do you mean that it was thrown upon the surrounding district alone, or that it was expected that Paisley was to contribute to its own relief?—I dare say the communication might refer to the locality; but I think it was principally applied to the county and the county proprietors.

785. Did not that relieve the inhabitants of Paisley from the duty of relieving so far as they could their own wants?—Oh, no.

786. You

786. You state that 400*l.* was received from the county and the London Committee, 500*l.* being the sum required for the maintenance of the poor at the rate you gave?—Yes.

787. Mr. *Duncan.*] You state that the tickets were issued for meal, bread and potatoes?—Yes.

788. You state that they enabled any party when he went to the dealers to get any thing in lieu of meal?—Yes; the dealers were generally in the habit of giving out of the order to the amount of a shilling, three-pence, or perhaps two-pence, to enable the party to buy milk or some other necessaries of that kind, or for light; that was an arrangement between the grocers and them.

789. The ticket really did not procure for them what it bore upon the face of it?—The ticket was an attempt to carry the resolution into effect; but it was an impossibility, because the people could not live without getting something else.

790. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You stated, in answer to a question put to you with respect to begging, that a resolution was come to by the magistrates in relation to children and young persons begging, distinct from the conduct to be pursued with regard to other persons?—Yes.

791. You state that there were a great many children begging in the streets of Paisley at certain times?—Yes.

792. At what time was that practice mostly carried on?—The practice of juvenile begging, as well as general begging, has been greatly on the increase with the increased poverty of the population.

793. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You state that the payments which were allowed to those parties during a certain portion of time did not amount to 2*d.* a day?—No, they never amounted to 2*d.* per head over the whole.

794. You are aware that single men had more than that?—Yes.

795. And that men and their wives had more?—Yes; a man and his wife, or, perhaps, a man and his wife and one child; but the allowance was so much less to larger families, that it brought it down to less than 2*d.* on the whole.

796. At the time you left the committee, considering that allowance inadequate, single men were receiving nearly 3*d.* a day, and a man and his wife nearly 2*d.* a day, were they not?—Yes; but when I left the committee the amount per head on the whole receiving relief was exactly 1½*d.*

797. That average includes infants?—Yes.

798. The fact, however, is, according to the scale which has been given in to the Committee, that single men were in the receipt of nearly 3*d.* per day, and a man and his wife nearly 2*d.* per day?—Yes.

799. Have you considered that the system introduced into Paisley for the administration of the relief was one calculated to prevent imposition?—As far as it was possible to provide against it.

800. You consider that the scrutiny was an exact and accurate one?—As far as possible.

801. It was a scrutiny carried on by the unemployed?—No, not in general; it was generally conducted by members of the Relief Committee who were parties in business, and had nothing to do with the fund but to administer it.

802. Were not the persons who investigated, called clerks or visitors, originally unemployed?—No; the cases were first investigated by those clerks and visitors at the people's own houses, and a report made to the members of the General Relief Committee; I may mention, however, that in the commencement of the year 1842, when the list was at the greatest, for a short time that course was deviated from, in consequence of inability; on account of the great number of applications, it was found impossible to get persons to leave their business, and they devolved that duty on confidential men.

803. Who were those confidential men?—They were just respectable tradesmen selected for the purpose.

804. They were respectable tradesmen who went to the houses and investigated the cases themselves?—Yes, they investigated the case of each applicant when he came on.

805. Those respectable men superseded the clerks who had been before employed?—The class of persons whom we had put into those situations, the clerks and visitors, had always been of the most respectable class of tradesmen, not the poorer class who had sunk further in destitution, and who would have gone through the form of making application.

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806. When you spoke of respectable tradesmen employed, to whom did you refer?—Some of them of the rank of elders of a congregation; some of them the highest persons in their class.

807. Still they are operative weavers?—Yes.

808. Would those same parties have been on the list if they had not been so employed?—No, I think, with very few exceptions, those parties would have been either maintained by their own resources, or by the assistance of their private friends; they were generally of that class who would not condescend to go through the ordinary treatment of those who received from that fund.

809. They were parties all of whose sympathies were with the persons seeking relief?—No, I do not think that; and in the course of my administration of these various relief committees in Paisley, I have found that this class of persons made more effective visitors and were more efficient in detecting imposition than the class lately appointed at high salaries.

810. Still that system of administration which you considered satisfactory, was not considered so satisfactory by many gentlemen of the county?—No.

811. It was not considered satisfactory by Mr. Twisleton?—No.

812. It was not considered satisfactory by many clergymen and other parties who requested the inquiry made subsequently?—No.

813. You mentioned that the scrutiny depended also on the overseers; how many overseers were there in Paisley?—I should think there would be about 20 or 25.

814. You stated that the test which was applied to a person coming on the relief list was, that he had been two weeks idle?—Yes.

815. Do not you consider that if in any town of Scotland relief were offered to the weaving classes who were in a state of destitution, on those terms there would be a great many applicants?—I dare say there would.

816. And that there would be a great many applicants if the fund to be distributed were held out to be one of great magnitude?—I do not know whether that would increase the number of applicants or not; but I know that if a fund were held out to give the weavers 3*s.* or 4*s.* a week with the rate of wages they could earn just now, the people would prefer going to take relief from that fund to taking work.

817. Do you not think that some expressions have been used on the part of the present members of the town council which might lead the people to believe that that fund would be one of great magnitude; for instance, on the 14th of September 1841, a resolution, "That the council do memorialize Her Majesty's Government not to consent to any adjournment of Parliament until it shall have taken the present alarming state of the country into consideration, and devised means for the relief of the existing distress;" and on the 7th of December 1841, "That the council deeply sympathise with the memorialists in their distressed condition;" do you not consider, from those statements, that the council were directing the attention of applicants in Paisley to the supplies to be furnished by Her Majesty's Government?—No; I consider, as regards the first, that they were directing the attention of the Government to the distressed condition of Paisley; and, in the next, merely sympathising with the people under their destitution. But, in reference to the answer I have given, I hope to be permitted to add, that, while I feel all this sympathy, I took with others every means of obtaining for the people employment, if it was to be got in the country; we always said to the people, "You must labour for the means of subsistence, and we can give you relief only in case you cannot obtain it otherwise."

818. Are you aware that a manufacturer in Paisley some months ago put up a printed bill outside of his warehouse, in Paisley, that he required 50 to 60 weavers, for plain articles, at which about 9*s.* 6*d.* a week might be earned; that weavers called, but refused the wages, preferring to go idle, and to receive the supplies from the relief fund; that this they did, rather than accept any work, save their favourite imitation figured work; that this manufacturer sent notice to the municipal authorities of his wants, but that they would not, or, at least, did not, urge any of those public recipients to take the work, and, consequently, he was obliged to get the work done in the county; are you aware of those facts?—My conviction is, that no such occurrence ever took place. I can state most decidedly, as the chairman of the Relief Committee, and chief magistrate of the town, that no such application was ever made either to the Relief Committee, or to the town council. I have always held out, in answer to such representations,

representations, that, if any manufacturer wished for workmen, if he would come to me, I would undertake soon to supply him; and I may state further, in vindication of the character of the workmen of Paisley, that in the autumn of 1842, about the month of October, when, on the Queen's return from Scotland, the article of tartans came to be very much in fashion and very much in demand for a few weeks, the weavers of Paisley, though quite unaccustomed to such work, took it with avidity. I have in many cases written recommendations of workmen to manufacturers to get such work, but it was never so abundant that the workmen could get it by application, without some influence to enable them to procure the work.

819. You never heard of such a printed bill being placed outside a manufacturer's warehouse, nor was any application made to you, or any of the authorities in Paisley, for workmen, under such circumstances?—Never.

820. You state that the Paisley weavers are always ready to accept work of almost every description; are you aware that a different impression prevails among many houses in Glasgow?—I am aware that a different impression prevails in the public, particularly at a distance; but I am not aware that such an impression prevails among the manufacturers in Glasgow. I have made inquiry at the leading Glasgow houses within the last two months; I find from them, that all their best work was done in Paisley; that they would prefer the work of that place to any other.

821. You speak of figured work?—Yes.

822. Are you aware that houses which give out plain work, have an impression, whether correct or not, that the Paisley workmen are not be depended on for the execution of plain work?—I do not believe that such an impression prevails among the manufacturers.

823. You are not aware of any houses in Glasgow, which used to employ workmen in Paisley, but now employ workmen in the county and in Ayrshire?—No.

824. You are not aware that any houses in Paisley are in the habit of employing weavers of plain work in Belfast, in preference to Paisley?—There is only one house in Paisley which employs weavers in Belfast, and that house also employs a number of weavers in the town.

825. For figured work?—Yes, they do not make any plain work, and I do not think there is any other house in Paisley which sends work to Belfast.

826. If it is the impression in any quarter that it is not wise to employ Paisley weavers for plain work, because they are in the habit on the first revival of trade of throwing up that work in order to procure figured work, you consider that impression to be an erroneous one?—I do not think that the attempt has ever been made to offer plain work to the Paisley weavers; and as a proof of that, no superabundance of plain work has been to be got in the neighbourhood, and the adjoining village of Kilbarchan where the people were exclusively in the habit of working plain work, has suffered as much during the whole of this depressed period, indeed more, than the weavers of Paisley.

827. What is the distance of Kilbarchan from Paisley?—Six miles.

828. Did you use any means to repress any expectations among the unemployed in Paisley, of relief to be supplied from Government, or some public quarters?—No, I have used no means to repress that; so far from using such means, I think in any emergency, such as we have been placed in, it was the duty of Government to step forward and relieve the immense mass of misery which was in existence; that is my individual opinion.

829. There appears to be a very great and remarkable rise in the number of applicants for relief in the months of October, November and December 1841?—Yes.

830. At the same time was there a statement made by the council of the duty of Her Majesty's Government, and also an expression of sympathy with the operatives in their distressed condition; are you aware that such resolutions were passed by the council?—Yes, I do not doubt it.

831. You used great urgency, it appears, on several occasions during the distress, with Her Majesty's Government, and with the parties in London, in order to obtain relief for those parties?—Not in October 1841; since the failure of the local subscriptions in March and April 1842, we have had scarcely any other resource to look to but the Government or the London Relief Committee for assistance; we have found from the long continuaton of the distress and its severity;

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severity; from the large body of unemployed, the public feeling and the feeling of the former subscribers went with this notion, they seemed to think it was a state of things in which national assistance was required.

832. Did you use the same urgency with such parties in Paisley as were able to subscribe?—We did very successfully; as a proof of the exertions made in the locality by parties who had the means at their disposal to subscribe, I have found one firm in the town which is still doing business, which has paid, in public rates and subscriptions for the relief of the unemployed during 1842, at the rate of 22*s.* per pound of their rental on all their property, and I find another large establishment, with a rental to the amount of 250*l.*, which has paid at the rate of 15*s.* 6*d.* per pound.

833. Was the property to which you refer property in the town?—I referred only to their property within the town.

834. There was amongst individuals a great amount of liberality in Paisley?—I would say that the whole population of Paisley who had the means were as liberal as could be expected from them, with a very few individual exceptions.

835. Do you think that the council contributed materially to that?—I am quite sure that the council contributed, as far as their means extended, equal to any of the inhabitants.

836. On the 30th of September 1842, there is a notice given by yourself that you would call the attention of the members of the council to the propriety of commencing a subscription in the town, and on the 11th of October 1842, you laid on the table a subscription-sheet; it appears that Bailie Murray on that occasion discouraged a general subscription in the town as utterly hopeless; are you aware of those facts?—I am quite aware of those facts; I may state to the Committee that I did every thing in my power, and I considered it my duty, in the situation I was placed in, to urge on a subscription, both by precept and example, but the feeling of the depressed state of affairs in the town was so universal, and so well known, I could neither get magistrates nor people to go readily along with me.

837. It appears that on the 25th of November 1842, when it was proposed to levy an assessment, and when the county actually did levy an assessment, for the relief of distress in Paisley, the council came to a resolution, that to levy the proportion of the sum proposed to be raised within the town of Paisley by an assessment on the whole property within the burgh, would not only require a long time to collect the amount, but be attended with considerale expense; and therefore the council declined to recommend such assessment within the town; do you consider that that proceeding on the part of the council was likely to promote the objects of the county meeting which had recently taken place?—In answer to the question, I may state that between the period at which I had urged the motion in the council and that time, a public subscription had been commenced in the town, and was pretty far in collection, and it was then found quite out of the question to propose to enforce an assessment and to complete the subscription both at the same time.

838. It appears that the council discouraged a subscription, which, in spite of their discouragement, took place, and you discouraged an assessment, on the ground that a subscription had taken place?—No; the council never discouraged the subscription; Bailie Murray might, as an individual, give his opinion, but the council agreed to the subscription, and it was remitted to the magistrates to commence the subscription, and to take the necessary steps to carry the public with them.

839. You would not consider it a discouragement to the subscription that the second magistrate in Paisley, when it was commenced, declared it utterly hopeless?—He gave his opinion; but I know he at the same time gave his own subscription in a day or two after; within two or three days after that I know he had subscribed.

840. The magistrates and town council, in a memorial addressed to Her Majesty's Government on the 4th of August 1841, applied to Government for relief to the then distress of the town, and stated that a voluntary assessment had been laid upon the inhabitants to the extent of 25 per cent. on the amount of their annual assessment for the poor; was it quite correct to represent to Her Majesty's Government that which your memorial appears to represent, that all local means had been exhausted, when it appears, from the secretary of the Relief Committee, that the proceeds of that assessment never had been realized?—The full proceeds of the assessment never have been realized, but a great portion

tion of it was ; and I certainly do think that, as a magistrate or an inhabitant of the town, to endeavour to enforce an assessment, when thousands of the population were reduced to the condition I have stated, pawning their shirts and other articles, would have been carrying the thing further than it ought, and that it is hopeless to seek assessments and taxes from such a population.

841. The provost and magistrates stated on the 28th of April 1842, " We think it but justice to ourselves to state that we could not give our consent to any further restriction, and that by far the simplest and best mode of giving relief to the destitute, and of paying those who have to labour, would be to give them the whole of their allowance, whatever it may be, in cash, to do with it as they may think proper ;" are the Committee to understand from that, that you declined to support the plan recommended by some gentlemen of the county, by the Government, and Mr. Twisleton ?—No ; I have stated that I did not decline going into that mode of relief, but at the same time I did it against my own opinion ; I thought the money system best.

842. You repeatedly state, that as conservators of the public peace you apprehended great danger to the peace of the town ?—Yes, we did so.

843. You considered that one great cause of the excitement was furnished by the change of the system from the tickets to the stores ?—Yes, that did cause a great deal of excitement in the town.

844. That was unpopular, and led to a public meeting, which, you state in your memorial to Government, you apprehended was dangerous to the public peace ?—Yes.

845. Did you, as chief magistrate of the town of Paisley, let it be known to the parties that you were favourable to their views ?—I made no public intimation of it ; I never had an opportunity of expressing my views on the subject except in private conversation ; but in private conversation I have no doubt I expressed that.

846. You have no doubt it was perfectly known in Paisley what was your opinion ?—Yes.

847. *Chairman.*] What was your opinion ?—That the introduction of stores into Paisley was improper.

848. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Have you any doubt that the excitement in Paisley was greatly increased by the opinion of the chief magistrate being known to be in sympathy with that excitement ?—No ; I felt, in common with the people, that it was an improper mode of relief, but I do not think that would lead them to an increased excitement, but, on the contrary, that having the sympathy of the magistrates with them, was the great means of preserving the peace, in the circumstances in which they had been placed.

849. Did you consider constables necessary for the preservation of the peace ? —Yes.

850. You stated to Her Majesty's Government, that a great portion of the constables of Paisley had thrown up their employment in consequence of their opinion that the system of stores ought not to be resorted to ?—No, we have never stated that ; I will read the words ; it is in page 26,—" So unpopular is it, that out of 18 captains of the constabulary force, whom the magistrates deemed it prudent to invite to a meeting on Saturday, to make arrangements for preserving the peace of the town, should unfortunately any disturbance take place, only four attended ; and many likewise state that the overseers of the poor, (the ordinary poor) whose assistance is required in certifying the accuracy of the applications for relief, on the ground of want of employment, have refused to act with the magistracy and the Relief Committee since the change of the system of relief." None of them threw up their situation ; one captain resigned at the time, but he represented his resignation before the board to be on account of age and his inability to attend to the duty.

*See* App. p. 163.

851. You stated to the Government, that out of 18 captains of the constabulary force, whom the magistrates deemed it prudent to invite to a meeting to make arrangements for preserving the peace of the town, only four attended, on account of their opinion on the subject of stores, and that the overseers of the poor had refused to act with the magistracy and the Relief Committee since the change of the system ?—Yes, that is correct.

852. That those whom the magistrates wished to call upon to preserve the peace of the town, having the same opinion on the subject of stores with the chief magistrate of the town, refused to take those measures for the preservation of the

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the peace of the town which he considered necessary?—I have stated that the introduction of stores was very unpopular in the town; what rendered it unpopular with many of the constables, and made them unwilling to turn out was, that a portion of them were bakers, and those provision-dealers who had been receiving the custom of the people through the medium of tickets issued by the Relief Committee; of course they had a personal interest init; besides which, they had a strong fellow-feeling for their neighbours.

853. Mr. *Young.*] You have spoken repeatedly of cash and tickets as opposed to stores; do you consider the giving of tickets and the giving of cash the same thing?—No; the cash I should have considered the preferable plan; but the feeling of the committee at large was otherwise; they, indeed, were obliged to resort to the system of giving orders on shopkeepers at first from their not having money to pay the people; but the general feeling of the committee was, that to give the people an order on a provision-dealer was the best plan, though my opinion was that it would have been better and simpler to have kept to money.

854. You yourself individually preferred the payment in cash?—Yes.

855. The person receiving a ticket had no choice of the shopkeeper; what difference could it make whether the order was on a grocer or on the store?—In all our previous relief of Paisley we were in the habit of paying them with money; as regards the second part of the question, the distinction between giving an order on a provision-dealer and sending the people to the stores, there was an invidious distinction between the tradesman who was reduced by want to go to a particular place for his provisions, and others who could select the shopkeepers with whom they would deal; it was a kind of brand of poverty, inflicted upon the people, which we considered likely to be attended with bad consequences; it was lowering them not only in their own estimation, but that of the public; it was putting them a step lower in the scale of society.

856. Could those who had tickets go to any shopkeeper they pleased?—Yes, and that gave great satisfaction not only to the people, but to the population generally; it was carried into effect in my absence in autumn 1841; when I found the people had the choice of going where they pleased for their provisions, it set aside the imputation very ready to be made in such cases, that the committee had a certain set of tradesmen under their patronage; by leaving the poor people to go where they pleased, it prevented that jealousy.

857. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Might they carry their tickets to any shop in the town, or any public-house in the town?—Not to public-houses, but to provision dealers; and in making many inquiries upon that subject, to meet objections thrown out against the system, we found that 18 out of 20 went to the cheapest shops in the town, and shops which sold nothing but meal, bread and potatoes.

858. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Do not those provision dealers to whom the tickets were taken, often sell spirits?—A few of them may; but, as I mentioned, I found, on making inquiry along with other members of the committee, that a great proportion of the provisions was given out by the dealers who sold almost nothing but bread, oatmeal and potatoes, who could not give them a fine kind of provisions.

859. Mr. *Young.*] You state that the people preferred it, because they could go to places where they made the best bargain?—Yes.

860. Is it your opinion that the people got more from those provision dealers for their money, than at the stores were those things were sold at the wholesale prices?—No, they did not get more; but I know the fact to be, that when the Relief Committee saddled themselves with the expense of managing the stores, which was to effect economy, they incurred as much expense as the provision dealers had of profit.

861. Did the people get most for the same money from the shop-keepers or the stores?—We made repeated inquiries before the system was changed, in consequence of Edward Twisleton and others being anxious for the change; I went and ascertained the profits taken by the provision dealers, and we convinced him that there was to be no benefit to the people by the change; that the profit taken on the general run of provisions was so low, that no benefit was to accrue to the people from their having them at wholesale prices; and it was urged by him and by some members of the committee to effect the change, more as a test to prove the destitution, than from any benefit to arise to the unemployed.

862. Mr. *Patrick Stewart.*] Assuming as falling on the operatives themselves the comparative expense of grocers' tickets and stores, would 100*l.* go further through

through the ticket system or the store system?—Except when the committee took a small profit, which at some periods of the market they have done; in some states of the market, it relieved the committee of expense in the management of the stores; it saved that to the fund.

863. It was an advantage, in your opinion, to the Charitable Fund, to adopt the system of tickets, as compared with the store system?—It was an advantage to the fund, so far as the ticket system saved the expenses connected with the stores.

864. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You consider the expense of the management of the stores to be higher than the profit the grocer or baker makes on the goods he sells?—No; I consider that they were much about the same; but in the one case the committee had the expense of stores, whereas in the other case the unemployed were perfectly willing to bear the expense of the dealer's profit.

865. You state that a reduction of the allowance was made in the middle of last year?—They have almost always been making reductions; there have been a series of reductions ever since July 1842.

866. You never thought that reduction arose from absolute necessity?—It was always on account of limited funds. In one case, I agreed with one of those reductions, on account of the reduced price of provisions; we reduced the allowance in money, in consequence of the reduction in the price of provisions; that was agreed to unanimously by the committee.

867. You are aware that those funds furnished by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, however limited, were supplied to a greater extent, and a greater degree of relief has been afforded to Paisley than to any other town in the kingdom?—I am told so, but I have no means of knowing the fact.

868. You are aware, however, that there has been supplied to Paisley a very large sum?—Yes, amounting altogether to 15,000*l.*

869. Did reducing the amount of the allowance excite a great deal of feeling in the unemployed in Paisley?—Yes.

870. Did they come to the magistrates to complain of the reduction which had been made?—They complained to the committee and magistrates very much when the reductions took place.

871. Do not you think it would have tended to add to the excitement, if they heard that the authorities in Paisley held the allowance granted by the charity of England to the poor of Paisley as "equal to the cost of a breakfast of a felon in prison?"—I cannot say whether it would excite them, but it was the fact.

872. Do you think that mode of stating the fact would tend to calm the excitement of people naturally excited?—The people were not under any particular excitement when those statements were made; but in reference to that question, I would just give the same reply I have already done to a previous one, that I consider the sympathy of those in authority with the people in distress has had a great tendency to maintain the peace of the town.

873. Do you think it is necessary, in expressing sympathy for the dstresses of the people, to denounce the amount of relief afforded by England to the unemployed as equal to the cost of a breakfast of a felon in prison?—I think it is the duty of every magistrate to see every thing done for the relief of the people: no denunciation was ever made against the Government, but merely a statement of the fact, that the people were getting too little.

874. Mr. *Acland.*] When was that stated?—I am not aware that I have stated that personally; it is stated, I observe, in a private communication from the magistrates to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

875. Was that ever published?—It may have been published since.

876. Has it ever to your knowledge been published?—My conviction is, that that letter never has been published, nor the answer.

877. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Your conviction is, that that language was used only in communication with the Secretary of State, and that you were particularly guarded as a magistrate in using no such language in the town of Paisley?—I am not aware that that precise language has ever been used in the town; if I am asked my own opinion, I am quite ready to admit that it is quite the conviction of my own mind; whether it was ever expressed publicly or not, I cannot state. The Paisley Relief Committee has been spending during the last three months from 300*l.* to 500*l.* a week, and during that time they have only drawn 200*l.* a week from the London Committee; but this statement was made without throwing out a reflection either against the Paisley Committee or the London Committee;

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it is merely a statement, showing the Secretary of State for the Home Department the very low allowance which the parties were receiving.

878. Would not such a statement as that made by the magistrates lead the people to suppose that Government were bound to give them an amount of relief beyond that which they were then receiving?—I think that it is calculated to convey the impression, that Government, or other parties having the means at their disposal, should have given more for the relief of the unemployed.

879. Would not that impression naturally excite the minds of the people against the Government of the country?—I really cannot say whether it might excite the minds of the people against the Government of the country or no; but this I would say, that if we are to judge from experience, the expression of such sentiments of sympathy with the people in their sufferings has had a tendency to preserve the peace of the town in times of great difficulty during the last year.

880. Whatever the effect of those opinions held by you, they would have a great weight, from the high municipal situation you hold in Paisley?—I should suppose the value of the opinions I expressed would be rather enhanced than otherwise from my situation.

881. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You state that you think it would have the effect of leading them to believe that the Government, or some other party who had funds applicable to their relief, should give them a greater amount of relief; in the communications you constantly received from the Government, did not the Government inform you that there were no funds at their disposal for the relief of the poor at Paisley?—The Government always informed us of that in their communications; but I was also aware that the Government of the country, on many occasions, had stepped forward for the relief of particular districts, and, among others, of Paisley.

882. Was that expression calculated to induce the people to believe that the Government had before stepped forward to relieve distress such as theirs, and that they had a right to look to the Government again for such relief?—Yes; if any expressions were publicly made use of to that effect, I admit they would have that tendency.

883. Mr. *Patrick Stewart.*] Those applications alluded to on your part, as chief magistrate, were made under your knowledge of the increase of the destitution and the decrease of the means of relieving it in Paisley, with a view to the preservation of the peace of the town?—Yes; those applications that were made from the magistrates of Paisley to the Government for assistance were unanimously supported and concurred in, not only by the local authorities in the town of Paisley, but likewise by the county proprietors, and, amongst the rest, by the warmest supporters that the Government had in the county of Renfrew.

884. This expression of yours, which you refer to, of the 5th of December, to the Home Secretary, you used with a view to bring it home to his conviction that the utmost allowance which the fund in Paisley was then capable of affording to the destitute people was in amount less, or not exceeding that allowed in the prison discipline of the county at that time?—Yes.

885. Your object in using that illustration of the state of matters in Paisley was to bring it home to the conviction of the Home Secretary that some means or other must be afforded to replenish the power of relief in Paisley?—I have not had an opportunity of perusing the letter since it was sent off, but my impression is, that the letter is respectfully couched to the Government in every shape and form, and that this expression is just an example to prove the inadequate support that was given to the destitute in the town at the time.

886. Much about the date of that letter, there was a resolution carried at a very large county meeting, expressive of their opinion, that the Government were called upon in some way to supply relief to the destitute?—Yes, such a resolution was brought forward by the candidate who stood for the representation of the county on behalf of the present Government, and carried unanimously.

887. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Do you know the answer which was received?—Yes.

888. Will you state to the Committee the nature of that answer?—The import of the answer, to the best of my recollection, was to show that the county had not done so much as it might have done, and that the Government had no funds at their disposal for the relief of the county of Renfrew.

889. Did not that letter contain a statement of the relative amounts which had been

been contributed from England, and from other places not locally connected with the town of Paisley, contrasting that amount with the sum which had been received from the immediate neighbourhood?—It did.

890. Do you remember the result of that statement?—I do not recollect the precise amounts.

891. Was it similar to that read yesterday in the Committee?—Yes, distinctly; the answer to one would be an answer to the other, coming down to the present time.

892. *Chairman.*] With regard to the application to Government which was so unanimously adopted at a general meeting of the county of Renfrew, was not that meeting very much induced to come to that resolution, from copies of a parliamentary return laid upon the table, which return had been moved for, and was presented to the meeting by Mr. Wallace, the Member for Greenock, showing that the Government had on many occasions come forward with sums of money for the relief of distress?—All the recent applications to Government, both from the magistracy of Paisley and from the county, I believe to have been greatly influenced by that return.

893. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] With reference to the distribution of relief to the unemployed at Paisley, by stores and tickets, by far the greater part of the funds which have been contributed for the relief of the unemployed in Paisley, had been contributed either by the individual subscriptions of Her Majesty, of members of Her Majesty's Government, by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London, or by the county of Renfrew?—I admit that the funds raised in the town of Paisley, within itself, bear but a very small proportion to the sum raised from other quarters.

894. That being the case, the gentlemen of the county of Renfrew, the individual members of Her Majesty's Government, and the members of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, were all of opinion that the distribution of relief by means of stores was preferable to any other mode?—Yes, that seemed a very general impression among those who knew least about the working of the relief.

895. That was the fact that they did entertain that opinion?—Yes.

896. They could have no other motive for suggesting that mode of distribution than the desire of making the funds so subscribed, applicable to the greatest extent in the relief of the unemployed?—I think they had an additional motive, which was openly avowed; they conceived that the sending persons to a particular place for their provisions, was an additional test of their destitution.

897. Their only motive must have been the most effectual relief of the people in Paisley; they could have no private or personal motive?—Nothing else than there having less relief to give.

898. Though the distribution of relief from stores was particularly unpopular, the constables, you say, were particularly averse to it, because it affected them personally, inasmuch as they were, when the system of relief was carried on by tickets, themselves recipients in part of the fund so distributed, by their profit on the articles?—A portion of them; not the whole of them.

899. Therefore, among those who opposed the system of distributing the relief by stores, there were parties who had entirely other motives, besides that of making the relief go as far as possible?—That might be the case, as regarded parties out of doors; but in the large Relief Committee, where it was so greatly opposed, I think we had not above one, or at the very utmost, two members, who were provision dealers.

900. Was not there one occasion on which a motion for a return to tickets was brought forward by a member of the Relief Committee, that member of the Relief Committee being himself personally interested in the change?—Yes; he was a baker.

901. Mr. *Patrick Stewart.*] If an opinion has been given to this Committee, that there was a considerable saving to the Relief Funds in adopting the store system in preference to the ticket system, you would not agree in that opinion?—If it had been proved to the committee that there was to have been a considerable saving by stores, in place of orders on the provision dealers, I should most cheerfully have acceded to the proposition; but in our inquiries we found there would be no saving; that the expense would be nearly the same.

902. *Chairman.*] Was not the strongest inducement for going into the plan of stores, as distinguished from tickets, the fact, that without going into the system of stores, the subscriptions which were tendered could not be had by the

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the Paisley Relief Committee?—Yes; it was made a condition that they must adopt that system, to get funds sent down to the relief of the people.

903. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You say that the Manufacturers' Relief Committee and the individual members of Her Majesty's Government, made it a condition, that those funds which they subscribed for the relief of the poor should be applied by means of stores?—Yes.

904. You are understood to say that there could be no motive for their making such a condition, except the desire to apply that money in the manner in which it would go furthest to relieve the destitute inhabitants of Paisley?—Distinctly, with the exceptions already explained.

905. Therefore, their making that condition only shows how strongly they entertained the opinion that that was the best mode of relief?—Certainly.

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*Jovis, 2° die Martii*, 1843.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| Sir. R. H. Inglis. | Mr. Manners Sutton. |
| Mr. Smollett. | Mr. Pringle. |
| Mr. Hastie. | Mr. P. M. Stewart. |
| Mr. Acland. | Mr. Young. |
| Mr. Colquhoun. | Mr. Duncan. |

ROBERT WALLACE, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

*Alexander Campbell*, Esquire; Examined.

*A. Campbell*, Esq.

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906. *Chairman.*] YOU are Sheriff-substitute of the county of Renfrew, are you not?—I am.

907. You are the resident stipendiary judge of that district of the county in which Paisley is situated?—Yes.

908. You have been a member of the Relief Committee of Paisley since the commencement of the present distress?—Nearly so; for a month or two at first I was not a member, by my own desire.

909. Since then, and up to the present time, you have been a member of the Relief Committee?—Yes.

910. Will you be so good as to give the Committee, as briefly as you can, an outline of the distress from the period of its commencement until the time that Mr. Twisleton arrived in Paisley?—Our distresses began in June 1841. The first regular return of the amount of that distress, in which there is a statement of the number of the destitute was upon the 7th of July 1841, when it was 2,180; they increased from that date till the 11th of February 1842, when the amount was 14,791 at the highest in that year; then it diminished until the 18th of June 1842, being then 8,050. It then increased to the 9th of August following, when it was 10,174; then it diminished till the 9th of October, when it came to 5,989; then it increased till it reached its highest point in that year on the 27th of December last, when the number was 11,885. From that date it has gradually diminished until the 21st of February current, when the amount came to 5,482, being the lowest number that has been returned at any time since the month of October 1841.

911. Will you proceed to give to the Committee an account of the nature of the distress and destitution in those periods?—The general nature of it was all the same, arising from a destitution of employment; and, both in its extent and in its duration, it has exceeded all the periodical instances of distress that have occurred during my official knowledge for 40 years past, and there have been half-a-dozen of them altogether.

912. Be so good as to state to the Committee what classes of the unemployed have been chiefly distressed?—The weavers; but their distresses involve the distresses of a great number of others. For instance—a weaver requires winders and enterers, as they are called, and a variety of other persons employed in accessory work, and these are all paralyzed when the weavers are thrown out of work; and besides this, when the employment for weaving ceases, so does the employment for dyeing and a great many other operations; for instance, the makers of weavers' implements suffer severely; in short, it spreads very generally among all the working classes, and all the dealers in victuals and clothing, and all the shopkeepers, are affected.

913. Has

913. Has the distress in Paisley also affected the out-door labouring population within the bounds of Paisley?—It has very much; there were a considerable number of the labouring class not accustomed to weaving, thrown out of employment and were very destitute; with reference to the nature of the distress, I ought not to forget that it was aggravated to a degree unknown before in Paisley, and I believe unknown before in Britain, by the almost universal bankruptcy of the manufacturers, attended also at the same time with the bankruptcy of the corporation of Paisley to the amount of 60 odd thousand pounds, including in that near about 20,000 *l.*, as I think, due to people who had made deposits in savings banks, which the town, in one shape or another, either as a corporation directly or as trustees of the river, had established.

914. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You stated that about 20,000 *l.* was the deposits of the labouring classes?—Yes, and friendly societies chiefly; there may have been others, but those were the chief deposits.

915. Many of the friendly societies had placed their money in those savings banks?—To a very considerable extent.

916. Will you state the nature of those savings banks?—There was one savings bank in which the corporation proper were the debtors, borrowing money and giving a little larger interest than could be obtained at the National Savings Bank, or at any of the other Paisley banks; the owners of the parliamentary trust, the river trust, being the same people, but under a different name, borrowed the money, and from the same classes.

917. *Chairman.*] Did the distress also affect those in the community who were styled merchants and small manufacturers?—Unquestionably it did; those that were unable to stand the crash lost a great deal of money; it affected almost every body that was in any degree connected with trade among merchants. I include under that name those whose dealings were not so much in the manufacture of goods as in the sale of goods, sending them abroad to all parts of the world, and also commission agents.

918. Do you include shopkeepers in the word "merchant"?—I include them.

919. Has trade lately improved in Paisley?—It has.

920. Is it now improving?—It is improving, but very slowly, and attended with a considerable want of confidence in its duration.

921. How long has the present improvement in trade been going on?—Since the beginning of the present year.

922. Has the consequence of the improvement been the employment of a considerable number of weavers, who were out of employment before?—It has.

923. Has that extended also to the out-door labouring population?—Not so much; a considerable number of the out-door labouring population are at present maintained, by employment given by a county committee who have some hundred pounds subscribed, and they are also kept in employment by private gentlemen to a very considerable extent; Lord Blantyre, Sir John Maxwell, Mr. Spiers and others.

924. Do you mean the Committee to understand, that but for the distressed condition of the labouring out-door population, those noblemen and gentlemen would not have taken those out-door labourers into their service?—Certainly. Perhaps the progress of improvement will be best understood if I state the progress of the decrease in the number of the destitute on our list since the commencement of this year; in the week ending the 3d of January, the diminution was 109; upon the 10th it was 866; upon the 17th it was 674; upon the 24th it was 558; upon the 31st it was 793; upon the 7th of February it was 854; upon the 14th it was 1,699; and upon the 21st, being the last return, it was 850; and I have some reason to expect that in the week ending Tuesday last it will approach 800.

925. What number will that leave?—That I am not prepared to say; but my impression is, that by the end of the first week in March the number of weavers upon our list will be taken off, except only such as manufacturers would not choose to employ, on account of their intemperate habits, or such as are bad workmen, or such as have not the necessary implements; I expect by the end of the ensuing week there will be only those classes or a very few more left upon the list.

926. Have you made any calculation of the number of those classes?—I have received some accounts concerning them, but I do not quite understand them, and therefore would rather decline making any statement; in consequence of the reduced state of our funds and the reduced state of our expectations of further funds, we have been using every exertion by scrutiny to strike off all those that were found not to have a right claim against the funds under our management.

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927. Can you state to the Committee about what proportion the weavers in Paisley have borne to the unemployed generally, as exhibited in the printed paper No. 1. [*Vide* Appendix, p. 134.] ?—I am not able to do that.

928. Can you give any opinion what it may be?—I received yesterday from Bailie Murray, who is the president of the Relief Committee in Paisley, the paper I hold in my hand; it is intituled, "Abstract Statement of the different Trades in the Schedule Book;" the total number is 250; and of that the weavers are 165, and there are dyers, 24; calenderers, 11; and a variety of other trades, a great many more than I thought were included in the number.

929. Does that refer to the present time?—I apprehend, at all events, coming within ten days.

930. That shows the number of men out of employment belonging to different trades?—Yes; but I am a little puzzled by the use of the term "Schedule-book" and the want of dates. I have received a further communication, which has the date of the 27th of February. I have mentioned the total number of weavers in the district at 165; this other paper professes to give an abstract, describing of what classes those weavers are: the number who have implements is 17; those who have implements partially is 49; those who are destitute of implements 63; and those that are not accounted for in the Schedules returned to the Committee are 36, the total being 165.

931. By the word "implement," do you mean looms?—I mean either looms or mountings of various descriptions requisite to enable the men to work.

932. During the period of distress, of which you have already spoken, have the working classes generally shown a disposition to get work for wages, or to impose themselves upon the Relief Fund without getting work in return?—That goes into a question on which the committee was very much divided; we were divided on various points, and that was one of them. My opinion upon that point was, that our committee acted with indiscretion, after a Manufacturing Association had been established with a fund of from 9,000*l.* to 10,000*l.* ready to give out weaving work; it got unpopular, and a considerable portion of our committee, I am afraid the majority of them, did not countenance to the extent they ought to have done the proceedings of that Manufacturing Association.

933. By the committee, you mean the General Relief Committee of Paisley? Yes; there was a popular cry raised against it, on the ground that they did not give sufficient wages for their work, and people went even so far as to say that, in place of being a fund for the charitable relief of the destitute, there was even a view to make profit of it; and I believe it to be an undoubted fact, that, for a time at least, people who could have got work did not choose to take it; they preferred, rather than change their hands and change their implements to a species of work they were not accustomed to, to take the chance of waiting for a few weeks longer, on the Relief Fund, in the expectation of getting employment in their own peculiar sort of weaving.

934. Can you state to the Committee about what time this feeling arose unfavourable to taking work from the Manufacturing Association?—I am not very well able to state the date, but it was about the period of their commencement. The delusion was dispelled after a time; for it was found they were giving fair wages, and that if they had given higher wages, they would have been taking the work from the private manufacturers; but, in the meantime, evil was done.

935. With regard to the working-classes generally, were they willing and desirous to get work at their own trades, rather than put themselves upon the Relief Committee without giving work in return?—I believe so; they always professed to be willing to take work.

936. That is, if weavers could have got webs to work, and out-door labourers could have got the work they were accustomed to, they would have been desirous to give work in return for the relief they received?—Generally speaking, I think it was so, with this qualification, however, that they had naturally a strong temptation to remain on the Relief Fund, if the wages offered for work were not higher, perhaps considerably higher, than what they were getting from the Relief Committee.

937. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] At that time, was it the custom of the Paisley Relief Committee to require work in return for the relief afforded?—I forget whether at that time they had commenced to require labour; for a while they did not require labour, and indeed at no time was it very easy to find labour to give them; after awhile we did require labour, but very considerable difficulty arose as to the degree of labour to be required, and as to the mode in which it

was to be recompensed ; many thought that labour should be paid for in money, others thought that unsafe, and that it should be paid for by the distribution of provisions.

938. *Chairman.*] During the period of the distress, the unemployed and destitute were supplied in two different ways; first by tickets, and then by stores ; will you state, as briefly as you can, to the Committee, what is your opinion with regard to those two different modes of supplying the destitute ?—We began with tickets ; that was the simplest and the easiest mode, but it was soon attended with great abuses ; and there was an outcry among the upper classes particularly against it, as being demoralizing, and indeed scandalizing, for there is a very prevalent appetite for dram-drinking among that class ; and giving them tickets, which they could convert at their pleasure, was not so bad as giving money, but producing something like the consequences of giving them money ; for it was soon discovered that being allowed to go to what grocers they pleased, they chose the grocers of course that were most friendly to them ; and, in place of getting what was specified in the order, that is, bread, oatmeal and potatoes, they got in fact what they liked to ask for, and if there was a little balance they got it in money. I thought it my duty to oppose this to the utmost of my power, not only on account of the prejudicial working of it, but because I knew that the rumours that went abroad, of our taking a bad mode of administering the funds, was very likely to dry up the sources from which we derived those funds ; and therefore I exerted myself as far as I could, but for a very long time unsuccessfully, to get it altered, there being a decided majority against me in the committee.

939. Was not the first alteration effected when Mr. Twisleton came down ?—It was ; I do not say exactly when he came down, for he was in Paisley a considerable time before he interposed.

940. Can you state to the Committee, of your own knowledge, that the tickets were used in the way you have stated, especially as to getting money and using it for the purpose of getting spirits ?—Within my own personal knowledge, certainly not, except from the fact, that a number of drunken people were occasionally seen in the streets of that class ; and from this, that when I first opposed it, the fact was in some measure denied, but admitted at last as existing to a certain degree ; but there was an end put to that species of defence ; for, one evening, when there was a specific motion to put an end to that system, one of the gentlemen came in, who was himself a grocer, and was then or had been one of the magistrates of Paisley ; he did not know the course that the debate had taken beforehand, and he at once admitted the fact, that that was a thing quite understood, that a person bringing a ticket entitling him to receive from a grocer bread, potatoes and oatmeal, got what he liked from the grocer, except spirituous liquors, and that he also got a little balance in money ; but there was a new ground of opposition to my views taken, and that was, that it was all right, and that they ought to have a portion of it in money.

941. Were the spirits given to parties on bringing their orders, or given in return for money given, enabling them to purchase the spirits ?—I believe the money enabling them to purchase the spirits ; but I believe, in some instances, they got actually spirits from those persons.

942. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You stated that you had seen a considerable number of persons on the relief list drunk in the streets during the time that relief was given by tickets ?—That was quite notorious ; I have seen them myself.

943. Were there any other means by which they could have obtained those spirits by which they became drunk than by the sale or exchange of those tickets they had thus received ?—I believe not.

944. Therefore, in your belief, they must have got those spirits by means of those tickets ?—I thought so.

945. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] It has been stated, with respect to the system of stores, that it was quite in the will and practice of the parties to exchange the stores for other articles ; was it not possible they might have exchanged a portion of the stores they received for spirits ?—It was possible, but there was greater difficulty in accomplishing that.

946. Do you believe it was the practice under the store system to change the stores ?—They would get what was in the order, and nothing more, from the stores, until we agreed that they should have a small portion in money ; the

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Relief Committee in London sanctioned, to a certain extent, the giving them money.

947. Under that system it was quite competent for them with the money allowed them to change it for spirits?—It was.

948. Was that the practice?—It had ceased in a degree to be the practice; for the distress had increased, and our allowance had decreased in proportion to the diminished funds.

949. You believe that, in the first instance, the portion of money procured by the parties receiving relief went in the purchase of spirits?—Yes.

950. Mr. *Patrick Stewart.*] Is it consistent with your own knowledge, or in accordance with your belief, that under the store system the people receiving stores exchanged the stores they so received for spirits?—I have heard it said so, but I do not believe it was generally so understood; I gave no great credit to it myself.

951. The exchange for whiskey was under the system when money alone was given, or part money and part stores?—When the tickets on grocers were given.

952. *Chairman.*] Do you believe that the obtaining spirits in the manner you mentioned went to a great extent, or that it was limited?—I cannot think that it went to a very great extent, but the appetite was exceedingly strong, and the injury likely to arise from the report going abroad, was likely to prevent our receiving contributions from other places.

953. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] What made the ticket system so popular amongst the parties receiving relief, and the change to the stores so unpopular?—They got what they chose in the one way and they could not in the other; and besides, they thought that the one was more degrading than the other; it was depriving them of the liberty of having what they found most convenient.

954. It is notorious that the appetite for whiskey is considerable in Paisley as in other Scotch towns?—Too notorious.

955. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that the parties who received tickets to go to a store, felt that they were exposed more to public view and remark, than if they had got a ticket to go to the grocers without its being known whether they were on the relief list or not?—That was the argument, and there was something in it, but not so much as to countervail the inconveniences arising from the ticket system.

956. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] In a population consisting of 48,416, and which at one period ranked 14,791 among the recipients of relief, do you suppose that the feeling to which you have last referred could have operated very extensively?—I thought myself there was a good deal of fallacy in the argument, because the people gathering together was a thing that took place at all events; they gathered together in great multitudes to receive their tickets; I do not think there was much in the argument.

957. In point of fact, it was well known whether the paupers received relief in money or in kind?—It came to be pretty generally known; at the same time, I must not be understood to say that there were not among the distressed a number of individuals reduced so by adversity, that had seen better times, who felt ashamed; I have not the least doubt that there were a considerable number of persons of that description, but by far the greater proportion were those who did not like it because they thought it was degrading, and obliged them to take what was given, without any option.

958. *Chairman.*] From the time the store system was introduced, has it been continued up to the present time?—It has.

959. The system proposed by Mr. Twisleton has been continued from that time?—Not exactly Mr. Twisleton's system; for we have come to allow a certain portion in money, and I think rightly so.

960. There was no money allowed in his time?—No, I think not.

961. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You have stated that the feeling on the part of those receiving relief was strongly in favour of the ticket system; was the same partiality for the ticket system prevalent among the small dealers in Paisley?—It was, and that was used as an argument openly and avowedly in our committee, that considering the depressed condition of the grocers, and since there was a large sum of money distributed for the necessaries of life, it was unjust to them to deprive them of their share of the custom.

962. Were many dealers themselves members of the Relief Committee?—I cannot say that there were many; there was one gentleman, to whom I have alluded

alluded already; but he became a convert to the stores, and is actually at this moment one of the committee for the management of the stores.

963. Mr. *Hastie.*] You stated that the balance received in money under the ticket system might be appropriated to the purchase of whiskey, and that to a considerable extent drunkenness did appear in the streets under that system?—Yes, I think so.

964. When they began to give money under the store system, did you not feel that that would have the same tendency?—The tendency might have remained the same, but the opportunity was not the same; the quantity of money given was not great, and, as I have already stated, the allowances were reduced; and I have heard very little complaint of intoxication since the store system was fairly in action. For my own part, I was an advocate for their having a little money; I was not disposed to object to that, because there are a number of things that families need which they could not do without; for instance, to get milk for their children, and it was impossible for them to get milk for their children unless they could obtain money from their neighbours, and therefore I thought a very small portion of money necessary.

965. It is your opinion that in giving relief to the distressed in the manner of stores, a small portion of money is also essential to be given?—I think so; it prevents the fraudulent barter of stores.

966. And, so far as you were capable of judging, under the ticket system they got a larger proportion of money than was necessary for such purpose?—They got money, what proportion no man could say; but my great objection, at least one great objection, I had to the ticket system, was the notorious and avowed and recognized fraud that was practised by every one, for the order was given for specified articles, and that was a passport for getting any thing. It occurred to me, that if it was proper to enlarge the number of articles, it should be done directly and avowedly, so that there should be no falsehoods or deception about it; but as long as there was a pretence for restricting the articles to three or four, and conniving at a supposed latitude, I thought that had a demoralizing tendency, and that it was not right.

967. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Were the great necessaries of life, bread, potatoes and oatmeal procured more cheaply from the stores under the store system, or from the shops under the ticket system?—I think from the stores.

968. You have no doubt that the profit the dealers obtained was larger than the expense incurred by the committee for the management of the stores?—I should think so, but I cannot venture to say positively; but my preference to the stores would have been equally strong, though there had been no difference.

969. You think there was a difference in that respect in favour of the store system?—Yes, I think so.

970. Mr. *Hastie.*] You are of opinion that 100 *l.* subscribed in charity would procure a larger quantity of food through the means of stores than it would by passing through the grocers?—Yes, I think so; if the thing was to be considered in the abstract, certainly persons who purchased, as the store committee did, by wholesale, and going to the cheapest market, could afford to distribute a larger quantity of provisions for the same value in money; the orders on stores were given in money, that is to say, the storekeeper was ordered to give the value of a certain sum of money in certain articles.

971. Mr. *Young.*] Supposing the value for which the order was given upon the stores and the ticket were of equal amount, the recipient of the relief received more from the stores than from the shop?—My belief is that he did; but I mention that with some hesitation, because the contrary was asserted; there was a dispute, in point of fact, and therefore I wish not to state any thing positively.

972. At any rate he certainly received from the stores the particular articles, being necessaries of life, and not luxuries?—Nothing more.

973. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You state that you thought a certain portion of the relief ought to be given in money, to enable the recipient of that relief to provide certain articles which the Relief Committee could not give him in stores, and you especially mentioned milk and other things for the children; was there any difference apparently as to the manner in which the children were fed during the two periods, namely, the first period, when the relief was administered by tickets, and the second period, when it was administered by the means of stores?—I could not know whether any difference existed or not; but we had a right

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to infer, that if the people had no other source of subsistence but the tickets, they must exchange the commodities mentioned in those tickets, in a greater or less degree, for other articles, namely, for some such as milk and soap.

974. Did it come to your knowledge that the children were better provided with food during the one period than the other?—I have no means of knowing that exactly.

975. You have stated that the numbers were in July 1841, 2,180, and that in February 1842 they were 14,791; that was the greatest number?—Yes.

976. Then on the 18th of June, the number had sunk to 8,050, making a decrease of number between February and June of 6,741?—Yes.

977. Can you state what was the cause of that decrease, whether it arose from an improved management on the part of the Relief Committee, or from any cessation of the distress?—I believe it arose chiefly from a cessation of the distress; but I remember very well, that Mr. Twisleton stated to me, that he had discovered an error in the reckoning amounting to about 2,000 persons, and I understood at the time, that the clerks of the Relief Committee in making up their weekly reports, went on estimates and not on actual enumeration; they had made calculations beforehand, and they found the average number of persons in a family with male heads so and so, and a certain other rate for those with females, widows, and deserted wives at their heads, and there was some error in the reckoning that was never very well cleared up. I do not know whether there was any ground for an allegation of fraud as accounting for any part of it, but I feel quite confident there was a great error in the calculation. After that we took a better mode, and ultimately we came to a still more correct mode of ascertaining the number. I took the liberty of altering the schedules, by making every man who returned a schedule claiming relief, set down not only his own name and his wife's, but the name of every one of his children, so that we were sure there could be no mistake; and I may mention also, with relation to the questions asked me before, about the employment of the stores, that during the latter part of our administration we kept a better look out; we had a number of visitors going out, and any instance of fraud that occurred was more likely to come to the knowledge of the committee. I have brought with me a schedule with the last amendment made upon it—[*producing the same*].

978. When that was filled up by the applicant, was his statement taken for granted as to the number of his family?—No; he was required to get a certificate from the minister, or others; and those certificates are printed on the back of the schedule; for instance, the certificate by the minister, elder, or other well known and respectable housekeeper, is to this effect:—"I certify, that I have read the statements given in this schedule, that the claimant is personally known to me, and that I sincerely believe the within statements are true, and that the claimant is sober and industrious. Given under my hand at Paisley," such a day. The subscriber is desired to add his occupation and residence. There is another certificate we demanded; "Certificate by the last employer of claimant," in these words:—"I certify that the claimant was employed by me, as within stated; that I believe the schedule as filled up to state the truth; and I further certify that I believe him to be sober, industrious and honest. Given under my hand," and so on. This is the most improved form of schedule we have been accustomed to give out to those who claimed relief; they brought it back filled up, and then it underwent such scrutiny as we could make by means of visitors and otherwise. Our scrutiny was not always such as we could wish; but it was the best we could adopt.

979. From what you have stated, the Committee are to understand that at the commencement of the distress your arrangements were not so complete as they have latterly been?—They were not.

980. And that in consequence of experience and better arrangements you have been better able to keep off imposture, and to give your relief only to those who properly deserved being upon the destitute list?—I think so; at the same time we could not always guard against frauds; and when a man got upon the list, we had not great facilities for finding the time at which he should be struck off; that was a great defect in our system.

981. The Committee are to understand that the Relief Committee at Paisley have been doing all they can during the progress of the relief to keep impostors off the list?—Unquestionably; they have made the strongest efforts in their power to prevent it.

982. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Was not there an impression, in the winter of 1841–42, that there were considerable abuses with regard to the placing names on the list, and was there not an inquiry instituted, on the request of one of the gentlemen of Paisley and several other parties?—Perhaps there might; but, as I have already stated, we had so many committees of inquiry, that the occurrence of one banishes the recollection of the other; it was a constant thing.

983. Your impression is, that with such enormous numbers on the list, it was impossible, with the keenest scrutiny, to prevent improper persons getting on the list?—Quite impossible; they never told of one another, and we have found out several instances of impositions. I committed a man to prison some time ago; it was thought too flagrant a case to be taken up by the burgh magistrates, and they sent the case to me; I shall not myself try the case, and I will read to the Committee what the man said. Upon the 25th of January last, a man, named John Philips, was brought before me, and examined, and made this declaration:—"I was engine-man at Underwood Cotton Mill, in the suburbs of Paisley, and had been so for many years; but for these last four years I have worked as a labourer at such employment as I could get. My wife, my two sons and two daughters, live in the same lodging with me, and the youngest of my said children is between 18 and 19 years of age; my eldest son, Robert, is a cotton-spinner, but he has been completely unemployed for more than eight months past. The cause of his being thrown out of employment was, that he was absent from his work upon one occasion with a lass, and he and the foreman had some words about it, and he was dismissed from his employment in the Underwood Cotton Mill; I pressed my son to apologize for his conduct, in order to be taken back; but he would not do it, and said that the foreman would not let him come back, and this I found to be the truth. As to my second son, William, he has been learning a trade, by working in Barr & M'Nabb's foundry, for these two years at least, his wages being, as he tells me, 5*s.* a week. As to my eldest daughter, Magdalene, she is a piecer in the Underwood Cotton Mill, and has been in constant employment there for more than a year past, excepting for about five weeks, whilst she was unwell. Her wages, as she tells me, were 5*s.* 6*d.* a week while the mill was going full time, and it has been going full time for the last six months. My wife had no employment and no earnings during the last six months; and, as to myself, I have had no employment nor earning of any kind since the month of August last, except what I got from what is called 'the Supply,' and I worked faithfully at the work that I was appointed to do along with others, in consequence of receiving subsistence from the supply. I think it was upon the 8th of August last that I began to receive subsistence on the said supply, and that subsistence was chiefly in provisions, but partly in money. I do not know from what fund or establishment the supply was ordered, but I received it in the council chambers from John Parkhill, or others acting as clerks there, and that by a ticket upon provision stores and part in money. That supply was received by me continually, if I mistake not, down to the 16th day of December last, or thereby. I received the said supply at various rates; first of all to the value of 6*s.* weekly, and then at the rate of 4*s.* 10*d.*, and next at the rate of 4*s.* 1*d.*, and lastly at the rate of 3*s.* 5*d.* per week in provisions and money. The way I got admitted to the receipt of subsistence from the supply was by going to the council chambers, and representing to Provost Henderson, and some other gentlemen whom I found there, that I was out of employment and destitute, and had been travelling up and down looking for work, and that it would be very hard if I were left to starve when willing to work. I think that Mr. William Barr was present on this occasion along with the provost, and I rather think Mr. Robert Cochran also. The provost told me that my case was hard, as I had stated, and that the only thing that could be done for me was to send me to work at the quarry, and so I was sent there, and continued to work, as ordered, till about the 16th of December, when I became unable to work from ill-health, and I have got nothing from the supply since. Before being sent to the quarry I was asked by one of the clerks what family I had, and whether they were working, or how many of them were idle; and I answered that I had six in my family altogether, including my wife and myself, and I said there were five of them idle, for that I was getting nothing by them, and that they were all idle to me. I did not deceive the clerk or the persons I applied to into the belief that none of my family were employed, for I was not asked that question, and I just went to work as I was bid, and took what I got; I had no recommendation, written or by word of mouth, in order to enable

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enable me to apply as I did; but Mr. William Barr, who was present, said that he knew me, and had known me for many years. I did not know that it was usual to apply by means of printed schedules containing particulars of name, residence and family and employment, and I had none such. I marked down upon a bit of paper at home whatever I got from the said supply, and I think the total amounted to 5*l.* 1*s.* in value, if I do not mistake. I am not sure whether I may not have received supply beyond the said 16th of December, but I think not. It was always by myself that the supply was drawn, excepting two times, when I was unwell, and I continued unwell at that time for just two weeks. The person whom I sent to draw the supply for me when I was unwell was James Tweddle, a cotton-spinner, residing in Glen-street, a person who was also drawing supply himself. Tweddle, like myself, has some of his family employed, and drawing wages at the time he was receiving the supply, two of his daughters being at work in the Underwood Cotton Mill, and another in a different cotton-mill. I did not receive any of the wages that my son William or my daughter drew, and I do not know if they would have supported my wife and me if I had not got upon the supply; for they were sometimes sulky enough about what we did get, and I applied at the council chamber as aforesaid, because I did not like to be dependent on them. All which I declare to be truth." His family was receiving 15*s.* a week from employment at those cotton-mills, whilst he was deriving from the fund to the extent of 5*l.* 1*s.*

984. You had been so lax in the system of scrutiny, that a person going for relief unrecommended was at once ordered relief in the first place, without any inquiry; in the second place, with questions put to him by the clerk, which he answered, suppressing the truth, and that man was in receipt of relief for a long period of time?—That is the fact; but it would be wrong to say that a fact such as this was of frequent occurrence; I have never known an instance of a person received and put on the Relief Fund without a schedule before, and it must have been accidental; Provost Henderson trusting perhaps to another gentleman being present, who had known the man, and on that account he went to work without a schedule. It was an irregularity, but an accidental one; and it is but fair to say I do not believe that such an occurrence took place frequently.

985. Does it not appear from the statement in that deposition that this was not a solitary case, but that another person receiving more from his family's earning also received relief?—Yes, as to imposition. I asked Phillips the question, and when I found that the man referred to was another cotton-spinner, I gave directions to the Procurator Fiscal to make inquiry into that man's case also.

986. It appears that your inquiries have brought to light two gross cases of abuse; have you any reason to believe that they were solitary, or may they be taken as examples by no means uncommon?—I believe that there have been various cases of abuse, of persons who ought not to have been on the list, persons having other means of support, but who have got on; but I by no means believe, and it is but fair to say, with regard to Provost Henderson and others, who were members of the committee, that I am satisfied they had not the least notion of the slightest irregularity being committed.

987. With the most vigilant committee and the most intelligent committee, you can hardly consider it possible to investigate from 8,000 to 14,000 cases, so as to ascertain all the sources of supply those persons had from employment?—It was quite impossible; the expense of our machinery has been very great, and we have been censured by the London Committee for its being so expensive, but with all our machinery we could not reach all the cases of fraud.

988. Mr. *Smollett.*] A considerable portion of the expense was incurred by your investigation?—Yes; we had clerks and visitors receiving wages for their trouble.

989. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You conceive that a moderate expense in carrying on an accurate investigation is in fact a saving by the prevention of fraudulent applications?—Yes, frauds would be committed, unless there were the means of investigation.

990. *Chairman.*] Considering the long period of the distress, the great extent to which it has gone, and the number affected by it, does it not appear to you that the exertions made by those who were in the Relief Committee, and the sub-committees, were very praiseworthy in their endeavours to assist their distressed neighbours, and to keep down all attempts at fraud?—That is my impression; but we were all persons having full occupation in our departments of business,

business, and we have been all engaged in scrutinizing claims; but it was a very difficult thing to get a committee of scrutiny who could sit and hear all parties; we could hardly expect that to be regularly carried into effect, but we did the best we could, and are doing now; the sub-committees of our number are exerting themselves very much just now.

991. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] It has been stated to the Committee, that an investigation was undertaken within a very short time by the magistrates of the burgh of Paisley, for the purpose of obtaining information to bring before this Committee, as it regards the number of the unemployed destitute population of Paisley; are you aware that such steps were taken by the magistrates, and will you inform the Committee of the proceedings, as far as you know, which were so taken?—I would refer the Committee to the minute of the 18th of February last, which, if the Committee please, I will read: At a meeting of the Relief Committee, upon the 11th February last, Bailie Murray in the chair, minutes of the magistrates of Paisley, of the following tenor, were read: "Paisley, 10th February, 1843. "At a special meeting of magistrates, Provost Henderson stated, that he had called "this meeting in consequence of the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. "Wallace, having given a Committee to inquire into the distress at Paisley, and "the treatment of the unemployed since May 1841; and the provost wished the "magistrates to say whether it would not be advisable to have an investigation as "to the number of destitute in the town, more especially as it could not be got from "the relief lists, as for some time past no new applicants have been admitted "on the roll. Moved by Bailie Smith, 'That the magistrates agree to make "the investigation alluded to by the provost, and that the Relief Committee be "requested to give assistance for having the same speedily accomplished.' Moved "by Bailie Todd, as an amendment, that the Relief Committee be requested to "make the investigation.' The motion and the amendment being put to vote, "the motion was carried." (For the motion three; for the amendment two; one of the bailies declined voting.) It was moved by Mr. Bissett, that the magistrates be allowed to take the assistance of the persons in the pay of the Relief Committee, to aid them in the investigation, it being understood that this committee have no responsibility concerning the result of such inquiry; seconded and unanimously carried. It was further moved, by Sheriff Campbell, that though the committee, from deference to a majority of the burgh magistracy, and from their desire to throw no impediment in the way of inquiry, have acceded at once to their proposal, they must observe that an account, proposed as this is, to take the number of the destitute, is so extremely vague, that it will include all the ordinary parish paupers, and many others who never had any rightful claim on the fund under the management of the Relief Committee; and that it is in other respects calculated to lead only to delusion, if intended to be produced in evidence before Mr. Wallace's Committee of the House of Commons. Seconded by Mr. Farquharson, and carried by seven to two; two declining to vote, being burgh magistrates. They would, of course, if they had voted, have voted with the majority.

992. Do you still concur in the opinion expressed in that motion you then brought forward?—I certainly concur in that opinion.

993. You do not consider that the result of that investigation carried on by the magistrates, could give a fair census of the number of persons in Paisley, to whom the funds in the hands of the Relief Committee could be justly applied?—I have a great distrust of it.

994. Will you inform the Committee, as far as you are aware, the manner in which that investigation was carried on?—I have not very large access to know in what way the investigation was carried on, or to what extent; but I will state the general outline of the whole proceeding. This is a matter in which I differ more from my friend Mr. Provost Henderson, than I confess I have done on any previous proposal of his; when that proposal was laid before the Relief Committee, there was a general expression of indignation, I should call it; it was considered as a finesse; the provost had sometime before withdrawn himself from being a member of the committee; the magistrates, *ex officio*, were all members of the committee; and this appeared to be an undue interference with the duties of the committee, by the magistrates establishing themselves as a separate body, to proceed in a manner that ran across the proceedings of the committee. There was one part of the proposal that I had previously heard of, that excited my surprise in a particular degree; that was, that it was proposed to make this investigation by issuing the printed schedules of the Relief Committee; thereby, in fact, inviting persons to apply for aid. I stated to the committee that I could

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I could not believe a thing so absurd was intended. The opinions expressed by the Relief Committee seemed tending to a refusal of the magistrates' proposition; but after hearing what other members had said, I advised them at once unanimously to grant the request of the magistrates.

995. With the use of the machinery?—Yes; because I foresaw that if they were to refuse, it would have a bad aspect if it were stated that we had refused inquiry. At the same time I was just as sensible as other members of the committee that it was an unfit proceeding; it was beating up for recruits claiming relief. The Relief Committee were at that very time making investigations by new schedules issued to persons on the Relief List, who would be struck off unless they returned their schedules duly certified, and we were in the course of receiving them back; and the circumstance of the magistrates sending round their schedules appeared likely to produce great inconveniences, and to excite in the multitude expectations very unlikely to be realized. I certainly did not expect that the mode which I had characterized as absurd would have been actually carried into execution; but so it was, that after the committee had given the use of its servants to the magistracy, or rather to two of the magistracy, our schedules were actually circulated. My personal knowledge goes a certain length as to the working of that plan, for amidst the multitude of persons who called upon me for charity, there was one whose face I had seen before, and I asked him how long he had been on the supply (as they call it there), for what reason he had been struck off, and whether he had applied again. He told me he had been a certain time off; that he had been struck off as a single man, and had been subsisting himself by private charity, from myself and others, in the best way he could; that he had got a web two days ago, but that for two days, which must yet elapse before he could begin his web, he wanted subsistence.

996. He was begging?—Yes; I said I had heard there were a number of claimants coming against the Relief Committee, and I added, "You do not think of becoming one of them."—"No," said he; "I had a schedule put into my hands, with directions to be sure to get it filled up and returned by three o'clock the following day." Said I, "Did you tell the man you had got work?"—"No," says he, "I did not."—"Did you fill up and return your schedule?"—"No, I did not; I was ashamed to do it after I had got work." I asked him who had given him the schedule; he described one of the visitors, whom I knew by sight, and I believe he is one of the most intelligent and careful. I took him into my room; the man's name is Archibald Whitehill. I thought it proper, under the circumstances, to make a memorandum of that; and when I went up the street, I proceeded to the office of the Relief Committee to make inquiry of their chief clerk, Parkhill, but I met the visitor just as I was going, and I asked if he had been issuing many schedules; he said he had not issued very many. I asked him whether he was careful to make it known to those to whom he gave schedules, that it was not by order of the Relief Committee but of the magistrates. The man looked in my face with an air of surprise, and made me no answer. I repeated my question; the man said, no, he was totally unaware of that; he had received the schedules in the office, and was not in the least aware that it was not by order of the Relief Committee. I took him to Mr. Parkhill, and said, "Here is a man who says you gave him schedules to issue, and that you did not tell him that it was not by order of the Relief Committee." Says he, "Well, if I did not tell him, it was because I thought it was quite well known to all the visitors." I said, "Mr. Parkhill, what is to be the consequence? you will have a number of people come, who will be disappointed." He said, "That is the case already; there are a good many have come, and have been a good deal disappointed, after having filled up the schedules, at finding no order of the committee to give them relief." I asked him, "How many schedules have been issued?" He said he could not tell, and he believed nobody could tell. I asked him what would be likely to be the consequences; he agreed that there would be great confusion and disappointment. I asked him whether many schedules had come back. I believe he could not tell me the number, but he pointed to a great number on the table; and I understood from another source, that two clergymen, Dr. Burns and Mr. Baird, had been examining some of those schedules, and I have reason to believe the provost had brought up a considerable number of them to London. Upon that point I would say, that if the provost meant by this inquiry and bringing up these evidences of his to impress this Committee with a belief that the numbers kept off our list and refused

refused schedules by the Relief Committee were to be measured by the number of applicants received under this census, set going by Provost Henderson, it would be delusive. I would state to the Committee, that the total number struck off the list in consequence of the resolutions of the Relief Committee, on the 21st of February, were as follows; of Irish struck off, of both sexes and all ages, 208 persons; of men struck off, because they had been upon the relief list continuously subsequent to the 1st day of January 1842, 85. I say *men*, because their families were not struck off; those men having been so long upon our list without ever having been employed in their own calling, was a sufficient indication to us that they belonged to that class who, even in the best of times, were not amongst the industrious, but who belong to the description of people whom manufacturers were not fond of employing, unless, indeed, the demand exceeded the supply; and we thought we were making a proper and a moral distinction between the industrious and the idle, by striking them off, while at the same time we continued their wives and families upon the supply, treating the families as if they had been the families of widows. At the same time, I may add, that although they were thus struck off, the circumstances of some of them were so extremely miserable, that we allowed them from time to time orders upon the soup kitchen; and I believe they have been continuing to receive soup. Though I am thus making a deduction of 85, they are not entirely struck off the list, because they are getting supplies of soup. Then we struck off parish paupers that were found upon our list, and who ought not to have been there, to the number of 49, which included dependents. There are two other classes; and I desire to speak as to them, not from any positive knowledge, but from such information as could be obtained from what I consider an unexceptionable source, because it is from Parkhill, the principal clerk, who was not appointed by me; for I have made it a rule never in the slightest degree to interfere with the patronage and appointment of any clerks of the Relief Committee, leaving all that to Provost Henderson, and those who usually act with him. That man I have questioned both in the presence of the committee repeatedly, and out of it, and he assures me that, according to the best of his information and inquiry, the number of persons who were refused schedules, and who having got schedules by mistake, had their allowance withdrawn after one week's supply given them (to prevent the disappointment which they must otherwise have felt) was 63; and he believes that there were an equal number of men that applied for, and were refused, schedules, making a total of 126. The total of all these is 468. Now I say that if the provost had in view to show to this Committee a large number of destitute persons, claimants, who had not got supplied, leaving it to be inferred by this Committee that those were persons who had been refused schedules, then I think it will be a delusion; for those persons that applied for and were refused schedules were generally said to be of a respectable class of weavers, whom we could not afford to receive, owing to the diminished state of our funds; and I feel confident from the information given me by Parkhill and otherwise, that very few of those 126 persons remained without employment at the time this new census was set going. If the Committee, therefore, should be led to think that the numbers now coming forward as claimants, afford any index to the numbers to whom we refused schedules, it will be a mistake.

997. Were those schedules which were so issued, on the part of the magistrates, issued in the same manner in which the schedules were granted and issued by the Relief Committee?—Not at all; the schedules issued by the Relief Committee were issued to persons who came to the committee-rooms, and stated their distress, and upon that statement being apparently credible, and from a proper class of claimants, they receive schedules, and they then got their certificate in the requisite form and returned it, and then they are scrutinized; but in taking this census, the visitors were sent out, as this man told me, with pockets full of schedules, and distributed them to persons in order that they might claim.

998. You have stated that you do not think that the result of that census so undertaken, should be received by this Committee without considerable doubt?—I think it is liable to considerable doubt.

999. Was the result, in your opinion, of the issuing of these schedules, in the manner in which you have described, productive of considerable disappointment on the part of those who received them?—I believe it was.

1000. Therefore the effect of this proceeding, in your opinion, would not be the producing

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producing valuable information to the Committee, but it would have the effect of producing disappointment among the people of Paisley?—I think so, considering that the effect of it, if it is to have any effect on this Committee at all, must be by producing the belief that our Relief List does not afford a true index of the state of destitution; but the remarks I have made are chiefly pointed at the delusion which will be produced if it be supposed that it indicated truly the number of people we have kept off the list. I may mention, in connexion with this, that I received a letter from Mr. Muir, who holds a subsidiary commission as Sheriff-substitute at Paisley, before I left Paisley, in the following terms: "Dear Sir, In reference to the conversation which I last night had with your friend Mr. Farquharson, regarding the poor of the Abbey parish, I have to state that I was lately applied to by four or five individuals to attest their schedules in order that they might be put on the Relief Fund; on looking into the schedules I was surprised to observe the short period the parties had been out of work, and on my stating this, two of the applicants (females) said that they had been called on by two men who recommended to get themselves put on the Relief List without delay, and but for that circumstance they would not have applied for aid from the fund, at least at that time. As I, however, considered the Relief Fund to be overburdened with numbers, I put the parties off, and of course declined to attest the schedules, although it is not unlikely they may have afterwards got the schedules attested by some other overseer or householder of the parish." Mr. Muir told me verbally, before I received this letter, that they did not look to him like persons of the description that should be on the Relief List, and he did not know any thing about them.

1001. You stated that the resolution in several cases adopted by the magistrates was adopted by a majority of three to two?—It is so stated in the minute.

1002. And that one magistrate declined to vote?—Yes.

1003. How many magistrates are there in Paisley?—Five burgh magistrates, the provost and four bailies.

1004. That makes the number of six?—That was one of the points on which the majority of the Paisley Committee were very indignant; one gentleman had voted as treasurer, whom they did not consider as a magistrate; he made the votes three to two; but if the votes had been equal, the provost would have had the casting vote.

1005. *Chairman.*] You have alluded to the persons who were struck off the list, and you have given the number 419, without including parish paupers; it was by the resolution of the committee that certain parties were struck off the list?—Yes.

1006. The resolution of the 6th of January; the resolution, with regard to striking off of the men who had been 12 months on the list, and of the Irish, is that to which you have referred?—Yes.

1007. Upon what grounds was that portion of the inhabitants of Paisley, consisting of the Irish people, struck off, keeping to the terms of the resolution, that they should not have been more than 10 years resident in the town of Paisley?—The reason of that resolution being passed was this; we were driven to the necessity of striking off some class; the funds which we received weekly, being chiefly dependent on the London Relief Committee, were quite inadequate to our expenditure. We had got into debt, and were getting further into debt; we could not hope, by any scrutiny, to effect a sufficient reduction by the detection of impostors, and it was necessary therefore to strike off classes, or to resort to another alternative, which the great majority of the committee did not think it proper to adopt; and that was to distribute, as far as it would go among the whole multitude, whatever we received. The reason why the committee did not choose to adopt that was, that they had brought the weekly allowance down to the lowest possible pitch to which it could safely go; being, according to my calculation, 7 *d.* per head per week, or one penny a day per head; if we had gone below that, on the principle of dividing equally among the multitude, that would have been equivalent to telling the whole they must go and beg; the great majority, therefore, disapproved of any further reduction in the rate of relief, and we therefore had to consider what classes we should strike off; we had already struck off all the single men under 40, and it was considered in the meeting whether we should strike off the married men who had no families, or whether we should strike off such of the Irish as had not been naturalized in this country, by a pretty considerable residence. Without being put to the vote, it was clearly enough

enough indicated that the proposal of striking off the married men and their wives was the least acceptable of the two, and the other was put to the vote. Upon this subject there has been so much misrepresentation, that I dare say the Committee will excuse my stating, that during the discussion concerning the Irish, there was not a single word said about difference of religion; and, for my own part, the idea of such a thing never occurred to me; and I may say never occurred to any other individual who was present; but I had been paying some attention to the Irish Poor Law; I had read the Report to the Secretary of State, Lord John Russell, made by Mr. Nicholls, one of the Poor Law Commissioners, and I had read the Irish Poor Law that was passed subsequent to that report, and it became my own conviction, and I had heard the same from others, that by the new Irish Poor Law there was no such thing as parish settlement in Ireland, and that any Irishman applying to the managers in any quarter of Ireland, would, practically speaking, obtain relief, provided only the managers were convinced it was a case of necessity, and that he was destitute, willing to work, but not able to procure it, and provided that he was willing to take the workhouse test.

1008. In Ireland?—Yes; this, therefore, weighed with the majority of us in agreeing that the Irish who had not been 10 years in Paisley should be struck off; and, for my own part, it did not strike me as being any flagrant abuse of the powers of the committee, because, upon a previous Committee of the House of Commons, to which I was called to give evidence in the year 1827, on the Scotch Poor Laws as bearing upon the question of Emigration, I stated then that there had been several hundreds of Irish sent away. I was asked by some one, "If you say there is no power of removal in Scotland, on what ground did you send the Irish out of the country?" my answer was, that we had no power of removal in Scotland, practically speaking, even of persons who became chargeable, but that we had a sort of moral compulsion in this way, that they understood they would receive no relief if they remained, and we gave them 1*s.* and a loaf, and paid them their passage, and sent them away. The circumstances now are still more favourable, for at that time they went away without having any Poor Law in Ireland under which to claim relief, and now, if they can find their way to their own country, they go with a practical certainty that they will get relief.

1009. What provision was made for the Irish struck off on the present occasion?—We could not make any provision except giving some considerable interval after the publication of the resolution; the resolution was passed on the 6th, and was not to be carried into effect till the 17th of January.

1010. Did not the Paisley Relief Committee give instructions that they should receive some relief in money, so as to enable them, if they thought fit, to get to Ireland?—I believe so; we would have been most happy to give them an advance of any reasonable sum; and it must be understood also, that I have all along entertained the principle, that there ought to be some person vested with an absolute discretion to subsist persons in extreme cases of destitution; but for that, some lamentable cases might take place; and, on my motion, the provost of Paisley was selected, and he and his successor, Bailie Murray, have always exercised that power; where they found cases of extreme distress, they relieved them forthwith; it was in their power to use their own discretion, and in our list those so relieved are usually entered as "occasional relief."

1011. At the time you have alluded to, in 1827, was there in existence a similar benevolent fund, such as you have been receiving in subscription, or from the London Relief Committee?—There was; there was then the greatest distress next to this, I remember, in the course of 40 years; our collections altogether amounted to upwards of 22,000*l.*, and of that there was at least 8,000*l.* came from the London Relief Committee.

1012. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Was that sum of 22,000*l.* applicable solely to Paisley?—To Paisley and the villages connected with it.

1013. *Chairman.*] The same as received the late relief?—Yes.

1014. With regard to the period of 10 years, had not those Irish families who had resided in Paisley during three years, under the usual construction of the Scotch law, become entitled to a Scotch settlement?—To be sure they had; they were settled parishioners by law.

1015. Did not this resolution of the Paisley Relief Committee fly directly in the face of that existing law?—Not at all, because neither Scotchmen nor Irishmen have any claim by law to the parish funds, as long as they are able-bodied.

1016. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] This resolution did not at all interfere with any claim the parties might have upon the parochial fund?—Certainly not.

1017. It only applied to those funds in the hands of the Relief Committee; namely, the voluntary subscription?—Certainly.

1018. *Chairman.*] It would appear from the statement you have made, that this was a case of necessity on the part of the committee, of which you were a member; it was thought better to strike off the Irish and those other parties, than to make an equal division of the money at their command among the whole?—Yes; that was the prevailing opinion.

1019. You have said there was no discussion or feeling in the committee with respect to the Irish being of any particular religious community?—Not the slightest.

1020. Were not the parties affected by those two resolutions, probably composed of Protestants and Roman Catholics and Episcopalians?—Probably they were; I made some inquiry after that of Parkhill.

1021. Virtually it did not apply to any religious sect?—No; there were only 12 men, heads of families, struck off under that resolution, and of those 12, I understood from Parkhill, who professed to have made inquiry into the subject, 10 were Protestants.

1022. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] There were only two Roman Catholic heads of families who were affected by this measure?—So I understood, as it respected the men; as to the females, heads of families, he could not tell.

1023. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether there were any of the Irish affected by the regulation as to one year?—I cannot say. The national distinction was, I would beg to say, quite abhorrent to the feelings of us all; if we could have found any other mode of relieving ourselves, we would have adopted it.

1024. Was there any application to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee for their opinion before that was done?—No; we were not in the habit of informing them as to intended measures; they may have been informed after the measure was taken, but the Relief Committee in Paisley always acted on their own discretion, except only during the temporary interference of Mr. Twisleton and Commissary-General Ramsey.

1025. Mr. *Acland.*] Would you not also say, except in reference to the general rules laid down by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee?—Certainly.

1026. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] If the number of Irish struck off by this resolution was so small, wherein consisted the great relief to your funds?—The number was unexpectedly small; we thought it would have been larger. If I had supposed the number struck off would have amounted only to 208, I never would have interfered about it; I beg to say, however, in relation to the position in which I was generally placed in the committee, it is as well this Committee should understand that we were divided into parties, just as much as the House of Commons. Provost Henderson might be considered as a very fair expositor of the feelings and views of the multitude dependent on our Relief Lists; in other words, he took the popular side of the question, considering that class of persons to compose the popular constituency. On the other hand, I had in duty to take an economical view; I had to look to the feelings and opinions of those who were contributing, and to the feelings and opinions generally of the better informed classes in Paisley, and I, in that way, came to be a pretty fair expositor of their views; and I endeavoured, all along, to carry into effect the intentions of the London Committee. The provost and I generally agreed pretty well upon details; I was very glad to avail myself of his sagacity and activity and knowledge of the feelings and sentiments of the multitude; and, on the other hand, I endeavoured to get him to go along with me, as far as I possibly could, in my views, and we went on very smoothly and well together, differing, of course, in principle, upon particular points; those points generally were the mode in which relief ought to be applied. The chief and the most important difference I have entertained in opinion with him was on the article of clothing, on which I was decidedly opposed to him and the majority of the committee. I was always desirous of husbanding our resources; the money came pouring in great abundance upon us at that time from all parts of the island; it was quite evident that if we lavished it improvidently, we should be soon with a very large number dependent upon us without any resources, and I therefore inculcated the necessity of reducing our allowances, and putting the multitude on short allowances, to postpone the period when our funds were likely to become exhausted; on the other hand,

hand, a number of clergymen and others, very well disposed, and very humane, were for relying on Providence, and going on. My friend Provost Henderson, when I spoke to him about it, said, "My system is to give it as long as we have it." With relation to my own particular position, being in a minority for a very long time, I found it absolutely necessary to do that which it was very disagreeable to do; I wished to relieve others from a task disagreeable to them; I saw it would be necessary to make a sacrifice of myself in point of popularity; I know quite well the advantage a magistrate has in being not unpopular; and I have had repeated personal experience of that, in having to deal with mobs on various occasions; but I saw that it would be quite necessary, and therefore I made no scruple in relieving individuals holding my sentiments from taking the lead, by myself stating my opinions, and making unpopular motions, relying upon the good sense of the public, that though I might not meet with concurrence then, at last they would come to my opinion.

1027. *Chairman.*] Were you in the majority with regard to the Irish?—I was; I proposed it; I was not indeed the person that brought it forward at that particular time; but after a good deal of discussion, with a view of bringing the thing to a point, I took upon me to make a specific motion.

1028. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You were understood to say that there were two propositions before the notice of the Relief Committee at that meeting, namely, the one the striking off the married men and their wives, and the other the striking off the Irish who had not been a certain time resident in Paisley?—Men and their wives did not come under consideration in the shape of a distinct proposition, but more in the way of conversation, and I saw the tendency was not to strike them off.

1029. That never came to a proposition; but it was not in consonance with the feelings of the committee?—It was not.

1030. You stated that when the motion for striking off those Irishmen who had not been resident above a certain time in Paisley was put to the vote, it was carried by a majority of 10 to six; was the whole committee of opinion that something must be done to reduce the number of persons on the Relief List?—They must have been; I take for granted none of us were willing to contract more debt on our personal responsibility without knowing how we were to get relieved from it.

1031. You had come to the conclusion that it would be improper to divide the funds equally among all claimants, as it would render the reduction so great as to render the relief useless?—A great majority of that committee were of that opinion; I was of opinion that a further reduction of the existing rate of allowance would be giving a general begging license.

1032. Did those who opposed the striking off the Irish bring forward any other class, the striking off of which would be more desirable?—Not that I know of.

1033. They opposed the striking off the Irish, but they did not propose to strike off another class?—No; their opinion was in favour of an equal division of the funds.

1034. *Chairman.*] Were the committee unanimous in the opinion that something must be done, that in some way the fund must be relieved?—The question was never put in that sort of way; but the meaning of the committee, and particularly those who opposed the striking off the Irish, was exceedingly averse to personal responsibility. The inconsistency was, that people should protest against personal responsibility, while, at the same time, they were going on with an expenditure exceeding their income, and proposing no mode of reducing that expenditure, however necessary it was thought to be.

1035. Would not the consequence of the division have been a more general system of begging than has been going on?—I thought so.

1036. Has not begging very much increased in Paisley since the distress commenced?—Yes.

1037. Has it been increasing up to the present time?—I rather think it has decreased of late.

1038. Since what time?—For the last fortnight; since the improvement, it has decreased.

1039. Have the goodness to state to the Committee what your impression is of a petition, signed by Mr. Crawford, to which you gave your own signature as a subscriber; and what the purport and effect of that petition was with regard to begging?

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begging?—I should like to see the petition—[*The Petition was handed to the Witness by the Chairman.*]—It is. I have no recollection of the name of Crawford, but I remember a deputation; I think there were three called upon me, I think at near the hour of dinner; I am very frequently called upon by individuals asking charity, a great many in the course of the day; but it has become a custom with us for people that come asking private charity to get little petitions written out; and it is a bad custom. When people come, and carry written petitions, I do not look into them; I ask the people to tell me their story by word of mouth, and I put such questions as enable me to distinguish whether they are deserving or not. Three persons came to me that afternoon, and stated to me that they were persons who had been kept off or struck off the Relief List; and they offered me the sight of a paper, which I declined to look at. I put such questions to them as I thought fit: they told me that they came from Provost Henderson; I think they said they had been commissioned to come to me, that he had subscribed for their relief; they held out the paper again; I looked, and I saw the subscription of Provost Henderson, 2*s.* 6*d.* I never read the petition, I thought that quite unnecessary; I considered the signature of Provost Henderson as good against me for 2*s.* 6*d.*; certainly I would have thought it very disrespectful to the chief magistrate of the burgh if I had shown any backwardness in giving 2*s.* 6*d.* on his recommendation. I knew something of the people; I believed their case to be hard. I thought I recognized the face of one of them at least, and I had no scruple at all in putting my name; I did not look at the petition, as I have stated; and it was afterwards, with great astonishment, I learned its contents, and found that it contained a piece of gross impertinence against the Relief Committee. I had hardly given them the half-crown when they made another demand that I would subscribe some more papers of the same kind, which I positively refused to do. They said their necessities were such that an immediate application was necessary for themselves and their families, and that without additional copies they could not attain their immediate object. I suppose, of course, that subscription paper was to be used in the town, and no further; and I said they must look to that themselves, that I could have nothing to do with it; but that if they were at a loss, they must do as other persons did in other cases, when there was an original they might get copies made of it; they said that they feared in that case persons would not believe they were true signatures. I said, "Then go to some person and get a certificate." "Sir," said they, "whom do you think we should go to?" I said, "You had better apply to Mr. Wilson, the town-clerk; I dare say he will take the trouble to certify that these are our signatures." I heard no more of it then, till I heard it had been printed, circulated about the town, and it was stated in a newspaper that the sheriff had authorized public begging. When I came to read the petition in the newspaper I was not a little surprised. I could not account for the provost putting his name to such a document, for there was only his name when I signed it. When I read it again I was very much surprised how he could have put his name to a thing of that sort. I have never had an opportunity of asking him; he is no longer on the Relief Committee, and we do not often meet; but I went to Mr. Wilson, and expressed my surprise that he should have subjoined his certificate, going far beyond what I intended him to give. My recollection of his answer goes to this, that the people had told him so-and-so, that he scarcely looked at it, or something of that kind. I spoke to Mr. Wilson two or three times about it, half jest and half earnest; it was certainly a great blunder.

1040. Have the goodness to state what your intention was by allowing copies to be made, and to be used by these people in begging?—My intention was merely for the relief of immediate impending distress, over a set of individuals whose cases were hard. I never supposed they were to go beyond the town of Paisley, or that it was to last above a few days; but it was, instead of that, sent into the country round Paisley, and many copies circulated, and I have been even informed that copies have been sold.

1041. Did this follow immediately on the names being struck off?—I think so.

1042. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You did not conceive that the funds provided by the public, granted to the town, considering the amount of distress, relieved you from the duty of private charity?—I wish it could have done; that has been pretty considerably levied upon.

1043. *Chairman.*]

1043. *Chairman.*] Were you not a member of one or other of the committees, which were taken as the basis of the Relief Committee which now exists, and which was formed at the time Mr. Twisleton left Paisley?—I was.

1044. The 14 members composing the committee were authorized to elect six more?—Yes.

1045. Was that authority acted on?—Yes.

1046. Six were elected?—Yes; they were elected by ballot, I think.

1047. The original 14 were composed of the Store and Labour Committees, and the magistrates, I believe; but there were no clergymen in it?—There were none.

1048. Were none of the clergy elected to fill up any of the six vacancies?—No.

1049. Can you account, as a member of the committee, for the clergy being virtually excluded from being members of the committee?—I know of no reason why they should have been excluded, except that those who voted, the voting being by ballot, thought that they might get members who would work more as members of the committee than they could expect the clergy to do; each of us sat down at the desk and wrote the names of the six he proposed, and these were handed to the chairman or to Mr. Wilson, who declared the names of those who had the majority of votes.

1050. Were the opinions of the original 14 members of the committee, or of the majority of them, against the continuance of tickets and the administration of stores?—Stores were established at the time, and being once established the establishment was not disturbed.

1051. Were the 14 members composing those two committees favourable or not to the stores, and against returning to the use of tickets?—I should rather think the majority was favourable to the continuance of the stores; at all events there was no proposition for altering the system, that I recollect.

1052. Were not the individuals who composed the original committee generally favourable to the distribution of charity by means of tickets, rather than by stores?—They were.

1053. Are you aware of any effect which this had on the rest of the six?—I do not think that it had the least effect; for my own part, I never thought of such a thing.

1054. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Was Provost Henderson a member of the committee which chose the six new members?—Yes. Mr. Twisleton had a very delicate and rather difficult task to organize a new committee; I was very glad that my avocations happened to call me elsewhere when it was done; but when I came back and heard the plan which he had announced, I found there was some dissatisfaction, but I saw the prudence of the manner in which he had done it. He took the five burgh magistrates, then the two committees, one the Labour Committee, of which I was a member, and another the Store Committee, (committees elected by the general body), as the least invidious way, and then he left it to those persons to fill up the remainder of the number.

1055. The General Committee did not elect any of the clergy as members, either of the Store or the Labour Committee?—No, they were not elected.

1056. That was the act of the General Relief Committee?—Yes.

1057. From your knowledge and experience of the majority, you thought the plan that Mr. Twisleton adopted of organizing a new committee was a wise and discreet plan?—Remarkably so.

1058. And not subject to the objections which you state were in some parts urged against it?—I thought he could not have taken any other mode so absolutely free from objection as that was.

1059. You were in constant communication with Mr. Twisleton while he was in Paisley?—I was.

1060. Did you ever hear him express a desire that the clergy should not be members of the Relief Committee?—Never.

1061. He communicated with you most freely upon the subject of the relief, did he not?—He did most freely; but I happened to be out of the way at the time that this committee was organized.

1062. If he had been prepared to express an opinion to that effect, do you think he would have expressed it to you?—I think so.

1063. *Chairman.*] Were any communications held between you and the Relief Committee in London, independently of those as a member of the Relief Committee in Paisley, with regard to the maintenance of the unemployed?—

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No, never; I know that I was suspected of having some sort of private communication with the Relief Committee in London, and I mentioned so at the meeting I attended of the committee yesterday; and some of them were a good deal amused at the idea that it was suspected that somebody must have been in communication with the London Relief Committee; because, in answer to some letter that the Paisley Committee had written to the London Committee, the London Committee had shown their knowledge of something on the subject beyond what the Paisley letter contained; and by a monstrous jump in reasoning, it was supposed that that private communication had the effect of preventing the London Committee from doling out so liberally as they otherwise would the funds for the relief of the Paisley district. The idea is perfectly absurd; I believe there is no man on the Paisley Relief Committee that has done more than myself for the purpose of procuring funds for the destitute of Paisley.

1064. If it has been stated to this Committee that in a letter from the London Relief Committee it was mentioned that vacancies had taken place in the Paisley Committee, and that they were to the number of four, while no such number was specified in the original letter, is not that a fair ground for supposing that there had been private communication to the London Relief Committee from somebody?—A very natural presumption, certainly.

1065. Is there any other way to account for their lighting upon the number four, if it had not been mentioned in a letter to them?—I cannot say how they might ascertain the fact; I have already said there was no communication by me with the London Relief Committee, that was not public and official; but I wish to state, that I received one private letter from one of the members of the London Committee, giving me notice that a most important communication, at a very critical period, had been received, and that he believed that an answer would reach us by a certain morning, and he counselled me to do all that I possibly could to have local contributions gathered, because the writer of the letter was convinced that the grants by the London Committee would bear a decided reference to the quantum of contributions in the locality. I made some use of this letter in the Paisley Committee, not of course saying that I had received it from any particular person; but I stated at the time, when Provost Henderson and Bailie Smith were sent as a deputation to London to represent our critical circumstances, I stated to them, that they should not go away until that morning, for I had a private communication, which led me to believe that we should receive an answer from the London Committee that morning. I stated that more than once to the committee; but the provost and Bailie Smith had other views, and they set out before the answer arrived, and when they arrived in London they found the business was done.

1066. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] That, you say, was at a very critical period?—It was; when I say the business was done, I mean that the London Committee had done what we expected; the answer arrived at the time I intimated from my private information it would arrive, but the deputation had set out.

1067. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] If they had waited till the arrival of the letter, the expenses of that deputation would have been saved?—No doubt; some of the members were always stating that Government did not understand the true bearing of our case, and that the London Committee did not understand the true bearing of our case; but I do not believe this deputation would have gone if they had waited till the morning, when I said that a communication would, in all probability, arrive.

1068. *Chairman.*] What had the Government to do with it?—Some of our committee took the liberty, right or wrong, of supposing there was a sort of identity between the Government and the London Relief Committee.

1069. Mr. *Acland.*] By whom was the expense of the deputation ultimately borne?—It was paid out of the general funds of the committee.

1070. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Was it paid out of the fund for the relief of the distress?—It was.

1071. In point of fact, the expenses of their journey were borne by the Relief Fund?—They were.

1072. Mr. *Hastie.*] You stated, in the early part of your evidence, that one cause of the increase of distress was, the failure of the Town and River Trust Funds, to the extent of about 60,000*l.*?—Yes.

1073. Out of that, 20,000*l.* was in savings banks?—Yes; I think from 19,000*l.*

19,000 *l.* to 20,000 *l.* ; and that 19,000 *l.* or 20,000 *l.* was a portion of the 60,000 *l.* for which the corporation failed.

1074. Are you aware how much the River Trust was of that 20,000 *l.* ?—I think, speaking from recollection, the one was about 9,000 *l.*, and the other about 11,000 *l.* ; but which was the 9,000 *l.*, and which the 11,000 *l.*, I cannot say.

1075. The corporation of the town continue to pay a certain portion of the interest ; do they not ?—I believe they are doing so ; but I do not pretend to be informed of corporation matters.

1076. The interest being continued to be paid at the rate of three-and-a-half per cent., that would not operate so injuriously as you would at first be led to conclude ?—The injurious operation of it would be in locking up the funds, not in respect of the interest, which would come once a year, but in locking up the funds belonging to individual depositors ; but I do not attribute much of the general distress to that, for those deposits come from classes, such as servant girls, and others, not in a destitute situation ; they are sure of food and clothing ; I have among my papers a more detailed account.

1077. Be kind enough to state the particulars ?—I think there was lent to those two institutions ; namely, to the Town Council Fund, 7,300 *l.*, and to the River Chart Trustees, 500 *l.*, making a total, lent by charitable societies and friendly institutions, of 7,800 *l.*

1078. Can you distinguish those two classes ?—I cannot.

1079. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The Committee has been informed that the friendly societies in Paisley have generally been unable to continue their usual operations ; you have stated, that a considerable sum of money was invested by those friendly societies in those two savings banks, and that those savings banks have become insolvent ; would the insolvency of those banks, in your opinion, have a considerable effect upon the friendly societies which had so invested their money ?—There is no question of that.

1080. Therefore if the distress were increased by the stoppage of those friendly societies, the cause of that distress was, in the first instance, the insolvency of those savings banks ?—No doubt the insolvency of the savings banks would affect, prejudicially, all the members of those friendly societies who had a claim upon them.

1081. Therefore any distress which was the result of the stoppage of those friendly societies may be, in a great degree, ascribed to the insolvency of those savings banks ?—I should suppose so ; but I am speaking without personal knowledge upon the subject ; I believe some of the friendly societies to have gone wrong.

1082. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] The insolvency of the savings banks was occasioned by the insolvency of the Town Council and the River Trust ?—Yes.

1083. Mr. *Hastie.*] How many of those friendly societies are you aware became insolvent ?—I am not aware ; I cannot say ; I think I have said that this had not any very great effect on the general distress ; but to a certain extent it certainly had. My information upon this subject is not derived from personal knowledge ; I am only speaking from information, and I would add, that I have reason to believe that 72 weavers in Paisley had deposited in those savings banks to the amount of 796 *l.* ; but at the time the inquiry took place, according to the report, there were 61 weavers creditors on one bank, and 11 on the other, whose deposits amounted to that sum.

1084. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] The contributions in Paisley have sometimes appeared to be small ; can you account for the small amount of contributions from the amount of distress which fell on Paisley, both banking and manufacturing ?—Yes, it is too easily accounted for ; I do not believe that there ever happened in the British empire such a complete prostration of a town from bankruptcies as has taken place in Paisley.

1085. In what year did they commence ?—During the period and soon after the commencement of the distress in the summer of 1841.

1086. There was a great failure of manufacturing establishments ?—Yes, I suppose the banks have lost 100,000 *l.* by them.

1087. In addition to that, has there been any decrease in the trade of Paisley from the absence of work which used to be given to Paisley, and which has been given elsewhere ?—In consequence of this almost universal crash among manufacturers, however disposed to carry on their manufactures if there was any opening, they had neither money nor credit to do it ; persons would

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would not trust them; almost every merchant had been a sufferer; so that they could not get on. But certain other circumstances have combined to distress Paisley; and, I am very sorry to say, that one of those causes has been making its appearance very lately again, and that is, combinations among the workmen to tie down their employers to particular rates of wages. My attention was attracted, not many days ago, to a placard put up in the streets of Paisley, calling a meeting of weavers to take into consideration the conduct of certain masters, who were said to be paying under the established rates. I met a respectable manufacturer, who has the credit of being an ingenious one; I knew that he was among the persons that the weavers had in view, and I questioned him about it. There was a deputation appointed at this meeting to call upon the masters who had been reported to have reduced the wages of the winders. He said he had been that day called upon by the deputation, and that he had been obliged to subscribe to an engagement to adhere to the prices, a considerable number of names being before his, and the deputies being in the course of their circuit to get other names. I asked him whether he did not consider that as extremely injurious to the trade of Paisley; he said, very injurious; that it would even go the length of depressing property in Paisley, and that for his own part, if he was not tied down to Paisley by being a proprietor there, he would go away to Glasgow; that the Glasgow manufacturers were actually getting their work done at a cheaper rate than he and others were forced to give, in compliance with those resolutions of the Paisley weavers. I asked him what would have been the consequence of a refusal; he said, he would be persecuted. I asked whether they would have been burnt in effigy, as had been done in other cases; he said, he thought they would.

1088. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Were there not others ready to take the place of those who stood out for higher prices?—The practice is this; they do not say it in words, but if a manufacturer does not comply with the dictates that are made, they apply intimidation to his weavers; the weavers are afraid to engage with that person who is interdicted. They even go the length of practising other modes of intimidation of the masters, such as that of carrying their effigies through the town and burning them.

1089. Are you to be understood to say, that at this moment, when there is such distress at Paisley, and there are such numbers of persons out of employment, still there is a combination entered into by certain weavers to fix a rate of wages?—Yes; but the Committee is to look upon that as a proof of returning prosperity; they never do things of that kind unless when there is a demand for weavers.

1090. What is the date of the placard you have referred to?—The 11th of February 1843.

1091. *Chairman.*] What are its contents?—I shall read them: "A public meeting of the weavers of Paisley is requested to take place in the Exchange Rooms, Moss-street, on Monday, 13th current, at eight o'clock, evening, when the report of the delegates who were appointed to call upon a few manufacturers who were reported to have broke the prices of weft winding, and other business of importance, will be laid before them. By order of the Central Committee, George Thomson, Chairman. A collection at the door to defray expenses." Now when a great plan of this kind is established, there are a few individual weavers, some of more intelligence, and at all events the more restless of the class, who are put on constant pay, as secretary and clerk, and so on; they regulate the movements of the whole body, and it has been exceedingly prejudicial to Paisley. The manufacturers have sent their weaving elsewhere; a great deal has gone to all the surrounding villages in Ayrshire and a considerable deal to Ireland.

1092. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Are you aware of a quantity having been sent in particular to weavers in Belfast?—I am aware of that, and I am aware that work is sent from Paisley to Ireland and elsewhere by two houses in Paisley, both London houses. I have reason to believe that each of those houses employs not less than from 4,000 to 5,000 women in sewing; they are not shawl manufacturers, but dress manufacturers; and a great portion of these females are in Ayrshire, where they do the sewing remarkably well, and another portion in Ireland, where I am informed the workmanship is excellent; and I believe I may say that scarcely any of that sort of work is done in Paisley.

1093. The reason of that is, that persons create combinations among the

the weavers?—I am not quite sure if that be the cause with female work, or the entire cause with weavers. Changes have taken place in the Paisley manufacture; several in my recollection; at one time there was a great deal of plain goods, such as we used for neckerchiefs; but that has been abandoned; it is still carried on in Hamilton; plain goods generally have been knocked out of the market by power-looms; but for such work as I have been describing, a few weavers can make of fine plain work a vast quantity, and it is converted into dresses by the employment of female workers, who put on very expensive work indeed.

1094. The great proportion of their sewers are in the country?—Yes; a very few in Paisley.

1095. The effect of this cause has been to dry up the sources of employment and increase distress, and prevent relief being so abundant as it otherwise might have been?—Certainly; those combinations have had the most mischievous effect. Manufacturers cannot endure to be controlled in that way by their weavers. They say nothing about it; but they send their work to people in the villages; they are a more independent class of people, and require no advance of money. Now the Paisley weavers have been reduced so that they cannot get on with a web without an advance by the manufacturer, and the manufacturers are not fond of making such advances.

1096. Are you aware whether the magistrates of Paisley have taken means to check the combinations which were so injurious to the town?—I do not know of any particular attempt; indeed I regard it as impossible to prevent them.

1097. You are aware of the very sudden variations of the number of those on the Relief List, as, for example, the sudden rise of numbers from September to November 1841; can you account at all for those sudden variations?—The Paisley trade does not go on equally over the whole year; there are two periods in which the trade is particularly active; the best of those periods is what is called the spring trade, and the other the autumn trade. In that year there was an autumnal trade expected, which we might have hoped to have relieved the distress, but it proved a failure, and the numbers augmented in consequence.

1098. Do you consider that that cause alone would explain this remarkable increase?—I do not know any other.

1099. Was there prevailing at that time in the minds of parties in Paisley any expectation of relief from large funds supplied by the Government or other parties?—I do not suppose that that ever had any considerable effect on the numbers; I know there were stories of that kind going abroad, and it was said that many from a distance, hearing of the fund, flocked to get a share of it; I do not believe that such expectation did really produce any great effect.

1100. Has the scrutiny which you have lately made, and which has been rendered more severe by the exigencies of the committee, had the effect of diminishing the list of parties receiving relief?—No doubt it has to a certain extent; there have been a number of impositions detected and brought before the magistrates.

1101. It appears that you have been able to strike off the parish paupers, who were formerly on the list?—Yes.

1102. Are the Committee to understand, that those parish paupers may have been on the list from the commencement?—I have no doubt they had been on the list a long time; the managers of the poor are extremely limited in their allowances; for instance, for a woman, with one child, they give no allowance; and for two children, perhaps, only equivalent to the maintenance of one child; and owing to that cause, a number of persons, from the humanity of some of the members of the committee, have been placed on the Relief List; it has been all along objected to by me, as introducing a dangerous principle; but when we were driven to extremities, I made a formal motion; I applied to the managers of the poor, and got an inquiry, and a scrutiny then took place, and some were struck off as having no rightful claim, but being very proper claimants against the parish funds.

1103. Are you to be understood, that the ordinary practice of the Relief Committee in the commencement was to have schedules lying in the committee-room ready to be filled up by parties applying?—Yes.

1104. The parties so applying found a committee composed of members who might be varied from day to day?—They did not apply to the committee, but to the clerks in the committee-room, and unless they had any reason to suspect imposition, they delivered the schedules to the applicants.

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1105. It appears that some cases have occurred which have escaped the vigilance of some of the most intelligent and careful visitors, who have given schedules without careful inquiry or investigation?—I should take for granted some such cases must have occurred; if a person comes, having the appearance of a weaver, to the committee-room, any of the clerks, though they may know nothing about the man, if he says he is a weaver in distress, if they know nothing against him, give him a schedule; there is no previous investigation before giving a schedule; a number of the claimants may happen to be known to the clerks; but whenever they did not know a man they gave him a schedule, and there is a scrutiny of some kind or other when it comes back.

1106. Of what kind is that scrutiny which takes place?—It has not been very uniform; sometimes the press has been so great that it has been left in a more considerable degree than was desirable to the visitors, and the visitor calls; but at other times the members of the committee have sat for a considerable period; some of us got up early in the morning, and relieved each other so many hours in the day.

1107. You sat in the committee-room?—Yes.

1108. Your whole investigation was a cross-questioning of the applicant?—Yes, and getting what information we could from the visitors.

1109. So that in fact the scrutiny depended on your own examination of the applicant, and such knowledge as the visitor might accidentally have?—Yes.

1110. It appears that the reliance on the visitors could not be very strongly justified, when the committee have had already a case of an intelligent and careful visitor, who recommended the schedule to be filled up by a party, who it appears was not in distress, but was to have work in two days?—That is not on the part of the committee; that is the very objectionable interference of our burgh magistrates.

1111. Was not this visitor one of the same visitors employed by the Relief Committee?—He is.

1112. He is, as you say, one of the most intelligent and careful visitors?—Yes.

1113. That visitor believed the man to be a person deserving relief?—Possibly he did.

1114. Then the Committee can have no reason to suppose that this visitor, acting on behalf of the Relief Committee, would have discharged his duties more successfully?—There was no relief here; they gave those schedules into the hands of any persons who applied; I am unable to say exactly how it was done; but the visitors who went about with those schedules executed their orders, and gave them, as I believed, to every person who said he was in distress and out of work.

1115. *Chairman.*] Was not the utmost care taken throughout the whole period of the distress, considering the number of parties, and the great labour it imposed on those who were not paid, as well as others who were, in scrutinizing as well as they could to prevent imposition, and to admit only proper parties?—Certainly; it was the wish of all parties to do so; we could not at all times command a sufficient force of members of the committee to do all that should have been done, but there was a constant and never ceasing attempt to do it.

1116. Was not great labour bestowed upon that duty?—Yes.

1117. And a very anxious wish to perform it diligently?—Yes, the provost himself undertook a great labour in doing it.

1118. Was the success of impostors in getting on the Relief Fund the exception or the rule?—The exception, I think; I have no doubt there were a great many impostors, but the real destitution and distress was very great.

1119. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The difficulties of the committee varied according to the number on the list?—Certainly.

1120. *Chairman.*] And as your funds decreased, your difficulties very much increased?—Yes, very much.

1121. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] But then they became more stringent?—Yes; our best mode of revision was to give orders to the clerks to stop the relief, and give out new schedules to the objects of revision, and desire them to fill them up again, so that a new scrutiny took place, which in its effect struck off a great number.

1122. During the time that money flowed in upon you freely, you consider that

that the economical views that actuated some of the committee did not prevail?—Yes; with regard to the clothing in particular.

1123. A considerable sum was laid out in clothing, which you protested against and considered inexpedient?—Yes; I will mention a few particulars; from the beginning it appeared to me expedient that we should not constitute ourselves as a society for issuing clothing to the destitute. I was quite willing and very desirous that a separate establishment should be made for that purpose, to receive old clothes from others, and perhaps to relieve from pawn the clothes of those who needed clothing; but I objected strongly to our taking upon ourselves the task in addition to the very onerous ones we had, and I objected particularly for this reason, that I saw of all others it was the most open to abuse. There had been from 800*l.* to 1,000*l.* raised in Glasgow that was committed to the charge of ladies in Paisley, to be distributed there among the females in distress; they proceeded very industriously to work; but it was quite notorious that as they proceeded, the inmates of houses who expected to be visited, immediately gave their houses the appearance of the utmost destitution, stowing away their blankets out of sight to get a larger dole; the ladies looked very intimately and closely into it, and conducted their distributions remarkably well, and so carefully that I had not the slightest hope that a committee of men would have gone half so well to work; therefore I knew if we once established ourselves as a committee of that sort, we should have impostors flowing upon us from all parts. My friend Dr. Burns, and there is not a more benevolent man in the world, but extremely precipitate in all his movements, began by wanting shoes for the weavers, who, it was said, were breaking stones in the winter; I agreed to vote a small sum for shoes to these people; the next step taken was in my absence, and I thought a very dangerous step; 100*l.* was voted to relieve parties' blankets and other things from pawn. At the next meeting I attended I was surprised to find that of this vote of 100*l.* there had been expended, not altogether in the way appointed, but in procuring and purchasing clothes, 225*l.*, and they asked for a vote of indemnity, and a little more to clear their hands of engagements. This was very singular; however, I did not like to oppose the vote of indemnity, as done from good motives; therefore I agreed to it, with 25*l.* more to clear off engagements, hoping we should never hear more of providing clothing. A large meeting took place some time afterwards, and Sir William Napier came forward with a demand of clothing for his village of Kilbarchan, and he founded his demand on the fact that Paisley had got 250*l.* I believe I speak within bounds when I say that the question, whether he should have 30*l.*, or whether he should have a smaller sum, or any at all, occupied perhaps nearer an hour than half-an-hour, and it was opposed by a number of the Paisley Committee; but not a word was said about any intention to propose a further grant for Paisley. The business occupied a long time; it then became dark; there were only two candles glimmering on the table, and we could scarcely see who were present, and the county members were gone, except myself, when Dr. Burns brought forward a motion for a large grant of clothing for the destitute; I objected as strongly as I could, that it was introducing a new principle, and that there should have been an end of it when we had voted an indemnity before; that fair dealing required it should have been mentioned when the discussion took place about Kilbarchan, and it was uncourteous and unjust that the committee, in the absence of all the county members, and without notice, should proceed to a vote of this description. I could make no head; I suppose it had been arranged all beforehand. I was obliged to go away at half-past five; and I was not long gone before 700*l.* was voted for clothing, in doing which they gave 200*l.* less than had been demanded. That was, I think, one of the most imprudent acts done by the Relief Committee. The expense of clothing then and afterwards expended, amounted to upwards of 1,200*l.* certainly; and I should suppose not less than 1,500*l.*, and it excited great disapprobation through the town.

1124. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Can you state what was the date of this meeting?—The 21st of January 1842; a great portion of that money was devoted to shoes, for what we call Dr. Burns's schools. There were 80 teachers appointed with seven shillings a week wages; I did not very much object to part of it.

1125. *Chairman.*] Were the wages paid out of the Relief Fund?—Yes; the reason was that if we did not pay them wages at one shilling a day, many of them would be applicants on the Relief Fund; then there were about 3,000 scholars; shoes were provided for these. That I give as one of the points in which I was most decidedly opposed; and indeed, with the exception of that, I must say, in

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favour of our committee, that their conduct generally was very courteous; some little political effervescence came out, but very rarely, and every endeavour was used to prevent it; but this was a question in which some of the members of the committee, who usually voted with Provost Henderson, went a great deal beyond what I thought they should.

1126. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Was this practice of giving money and clothes continued from January 1842 to the close of the last year?—There was something after that, I am not prepared to say how much, but I should mention to the Committee that at a certain period of our distress, it was agreed that the clergy of all denominations should make a general appeal throughout Scotland; they did so, and a very large sum of money was procured in that way; that address was not submitted to the revision of the Relief Committee, at least not in the way it ought to have been, and it was sent off; and it contained mention of clothing, as one of the things wanted, and mentioned a treasurer of their own, separate from the treasurer of the Relief Committee; there were thousands of pounds came pouring in from that source, which encouraged this profuse expenditure, which created so much disapprobation through the county. The clergymen came to the resolution of handing over, with such reserve as they thought fit, the money their treasurer received to the treasurer of our Relief Committee; then, when they wanted any money to be distributed among their own congregations, they asked for 300*l.*, 400*l.* or 500*l.*, and they got it; the money being obtained through their means, they claimed a right to distribute it according to their own discretion, and it went exclusively, I believe, among their own congregations. There was one exception, one of the dissenting clergymen did not go along with his brethren, and did not officially take any charge of the matter.

1127. Did that go to parties not on the Supply List?—We never could tell to whom it went, for there was no account rendered or demanded.

1128. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The Relief Committee was not answerable for the distribution of those funds?—No; we could not tell whether any persons on our list got it; I had the most perfect confidence that the distribution was made by proper men and to proper objects, but it was not brought to our knowledge; I believe it was entirely to their own congregations.

1129. *Chairman.*] You do not know personally how it was distributed?—No, nor do the committee.

1130. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] A number of persons have been struck off the list in consequence of the deficiency of funds, since the month of September last, at which time the first stringent rule for striking off a class was carried into effect, that applying to all the single men under 40 years of age, and having no dependents?—Yes.

1131. Have you been able to trace the cases of any of those men since they have been struck off the list?—I should say we were better at passing general rules than seeing to their execution. That was a motion like all other unpopular motions, a motion of mine, to strike off single men who had no dependents; and after we had agreed to that, and though the thing was done, I was a little surprised to find that a great many still remained employed in breaking stones, at piece-work. On inquiring the reason for this, the answer I received was, that it was not understood that the resolution reached those people; and the result was that a great many still remained on our fund, because they were boys that had neither father nor mother.

1132. In consequence of this resolution, some were struck off in the month of September?—Yes, certainly.

1133. Some, who received relief up to September, received it no longer?—Yes.

1134. Are you aware of the circumstances of those parties; have any of them died from starvation?—Oh, no; there have been one or two reports attempted to be got up, of something of that kind, but they were without the slightest foundation, and indeed there have appeared two or three pieces of intelligence in some of our local newspapers, saying that epidemic diseases had broken out. Wherever I saw any thing of that kind, I looked at it with a degree of alarm, for I have all along thought it exceedingly providential that we have not been visited with epidemic disease, and I have always found that those reports were totally unfounded, and that the town has never been in a more healthy state.

1135. Are you of opinion that the mortality of the town of Paisley during the last year has been rather less than greater than it was four or five years ago?—I believe it has.

1136. You do not believe the mortality has fallen on any of those who in September last were struck off your list?—No, I do not believe that.

1137. Have

1137. Have those parties been absorbed in employment, or have they left Paisley, or what has become of them?—I dare say some have left Paisley. There is one man, whom I have mentioned, whose story about the schedules I took a note of, he told me he had one of them; he had been living on private charity in the best way he could, and now he had got a web.

1138. You were understood to state that parties were, during the period of the distress, disposed to take relief rather than to take the low wages which they might get at weaving?—Yes, that was the natural tendency; I have no doubt that for a time that exercised considerable influence upon many individuals.

1139. That disposition to take relief from the public fund did not continue during the latter period of the fund when the relief was so small?—No.

1140. Your impression is, that all those parties who could find work ceased to come to the Relief Fund?—I have no doubt that was the case; our allowance was so small that it held out no temptation, and the Manufacturing Association had left off business.

1141. *Chairman.*] Is it your opinion that the inhabitants of Paisley, as a whole, of all ranks and classes, did the utmost in their power, under the circumstances they were placed in, to aid in every way their unfortunate brethren who were in distress?—I believe they have done a great deal, both publicly and privately; generally speaking, I think that they have; they have given, at least, as much as I expected; I cannot go the length of saying that some individuals might not, with some propriety, have given a good deal more; but, speaking generally, I think Paisley has contributed as largely as, under its very peculiar and distressing circumstances, I could have expected; and I would add, and I think it is but fair to add, and I am a good witness upon that point, that the conduct of the multitude, who did not by any means want excitement to disturbance, has been extremely good; they certainly bore their distresses with exemplary patience; large meetings were held from time to time, and there was a great deal of incitement applied to them when suffering from time to time; but, upon the whole, their conduct has been very good.

1142. There has been no breach of the peace?—No; there has been threatening, but no actual breach of the peace. The majority of the Relief Committee, who found themselves driven to those resolutions about the Irish, which were exceedingly obnoxious to themselves, have been attacked; their conduct has been represented in a very exaggerated point of view; I have never been able, among all the objections to our proceedings, to get an answer to this question—"What would you have done in our circumstances, being in debt, and our expenditure continuing to exceed our receipts? What plan could you have substituted in place of that which we adopted?" As to the commendable demeanour of the multitude, I may add, that one of their deputations which called upon us, headed by an established minister, thought fit to tell the committee from those for whom he attended—the assembled multitude—that it was no answer to them to say that we had no funds; that our duty, as honest men, and men of spirit, was to give up the charge; and one of the clergymen added, I think I can very nearly quote his own words, "The people expect that you shall stand out of the way, with your police and your prisons, and let the people have their natural rights to help themselves and their families, to prevent their starvation in a land of plenty."

1143. To whom was that communication made?—To the committee; there were several present.

1144. *Chairman.*] Have you published your reasons for striking off the Irish?—No, but they were well known to those who published their denunciations against us, without mentioning any reasons.

1145. Finding that an erroneous impression had gone out to the public of the facts to which you allude, and the reasons for your having adopted that course, why do not you publish your reasons, for the purpose of undeceiving the public?—We have now, I believe, published them; it was carried in a vote of the committee that it should be done very lately, but our reasons were very well known in Paisley.

1146. Have you a copy of the publication to which you allude?—No, but it must have been merely a copy of the minute which has been read to the committee.

1147. The publication you allude to is a publication of the minute containing your reasons?—Yes; which would have shown that there was nothing relating to religion, as was alleged, and that the chief reason was, that the Irish people could have got maintenance in their own country. If the reasons we gave could

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have been removed, we thought it would have been very fair to have done so; but their truth not being in the least objected to, I take for granted they were well founded in fact, as to relief being obtainable in Ireland.

1148. Did any of the Irish remove to Ireland in consequence of that resolution?—No, I have no reason to believe that; but the priest has stated, that in consequence of the publicity given to this matter of the Irish, and the feeling it excited, he had received a great many communications with contributions, so that I do not believe there has any particular distress befallen that unfortunate class.

1148.* Can you inform the Committee whether the Irish, who were struck off by that resolution, have been restored to any share of the funds which have been sent from London?—I cannot say that they have; I should rather think that they have not; I put the question to the London Committee yesterday, whether it was their direction that they should be restored, and they told me that they gave no direction of that kind, and that they left it entirely to the feeling of the Paisley Committee to do as they thought right.

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*Lunæ, 6° die Martii*, 1843.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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|---|---|
| Mr. Duncan. | Mr. Manners Sutton. |
| Mr. Hastie. | Mr. Acland. |
| Sir R. H. Inglis. | Mr. Colquhoun. |
| Mr. Smollett. | Mr. Pringle. |

ROBERT WALLACE, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *Robert Burns*, D.D.; Examined.

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1149. *Chairman.*] YOU are one of the established clergy of the town of Paisley?—I am.

1150. How long have you resided there?—Thirty-two years.

1151. You are chairman of the committee of clergy and office-bearers of the churches as to the distribution of the charitable funds lately committed to your care?—I am.

1152. Did you as clergymen generally act harmoniously in relieving the distress of Paisley?—We did.

1153. Had you occasion to witness much of the distress which has prevailed and is now prevailing?—Very much.

1154. To what classes of the community has it extended?—To hand-loom weavers and operatives of all kinds; to a large portion of the manufacturers, who have become bankrupt and suffered a great loss of money; to teachers of youth, whose interests have suffered; even to pawnbrokers, whose business has been almost at a stand, by reason of the inability of the people to pawn those articles of clothing and other things which they were formerly accustomed to do, but which they have not now in their possession. I would mention, too, the landlords, who have suffered a very great loss in the non-payment of rents.

1155. Have the bankruptcies to which you allude taken place since the commencement of the present distress?—They have, at an early period of it.

1156. When do you date the earliest of the bankruptcies during the present distress?—I think the earliest of the bankruptcies began about May 1841; and they continued for three months.

1157. Was that about the period of the commencement of the distress?—The distress I would date as commencing about the month of April 1841; but the first public meeting we had was on the 29th of June 1841, of which I have in my hand a printed minute.

[*The same was delivered in; and read, as follows:*]

Court Hall, Paisley, 29 June 1841.

At a Public Meeting of the Clergy, Bankers, Merchants, Manufacturers, Traders, and other Inhabitants of the Town of Paisley and Neighbourhood, called by public advertisement, to devise means for the Relief of the Unemployed Operatives of the Town;

Provost Bisset having taken the chair, stated the object for which the present meeting had been called, and also the previous measures which had been adopted for the relief of the unemployed operatives; from which it appeared that subscriptions had been raised to the amount of about 60*l.*, which had been distributed, at sundry times, amongst upwards of 300 families. Sheriff Dunlop also addressed the meeting.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. M'Nair, apologising for his absence, and suggesting a mode of granting relief; and also a memorial from the unemployed, were read.

It was the decided conviction of the meeting, that a very great deal of real distress exists among the operatives of Paisley and its neighbourhood; that the efforts made hitherto by subscription

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subscription have been altogether ineffectual; and the measure of relief which has been given by the acting committee, though distributed with the greatest care according to the means put within their power, altogether inadequate.

After some discussion, it was moved by the Rev. Dr. Burns, That a committee be appointed for the purpose of raising a fund, with the view of providing for the relief of the unemployed; and that this meeting shall unanimously agree to assess themselves to the extent of 25 per cent. on the ordinary amount of their assessment for the poor, and that the committee be empowered to propose and allocate a similar voluntary assessment on the inhabitants in the Town and Abbey Parish of Paisley. That this meeting further agree to recommend the above proposal of a voluntary assessment to the considerate and liberal support of the inhabitants at large, as the method which, in the failure of attempted subscriptions, seems the fairest and best; earnestly hoping that the success of the present measure will render it unnecessary to have recourse to what must otherwise be inevitable—the adoption of legal and compulsory measures, in order to the suitable relief of a needy population; which motion was seconded by James Drummond, Esq., late provost of Paisley.

It was moved, as an amendment, by Mr. Robert Shaw, That, in the meantime, a committee be appointed for the purpose of procuring subscriptions for the immediate relief of the unemployed operatives; with power to the committee to make such inquiry as they may consider proper, as to the legality of imposing a compulsory assessment upon the inhabitants for the purpose for which this meeting has been called; which amendment was seconded by Bailie Barr.

The amendment and Motion having been put to the meeting, the latter was carried almost unanimously; and the following persons (with power to add to their number) were named as a committee, for the purposes therein mentioned; viz.

Provost Bisset.
Bailie Murray.
Bailie Ritchie.
Bailie Todd.
Treasurer Taylor.
Mr. John Henderson.
„ James Stirrat.
„ William Campbell.
„ William Melvin.
„ John Smith.
„ William Brown, Egypt Park.
„ Andrew Warnock.
„ Robert Kirkland.
„ Archibald Hastie, baker.
„ John Kirkland.
Mr. Andrew Robb.
„ John Paton, grocer.
„ John Walker.
„ James Winning.
„ Archibald M'Nair.
„ George Symington.
„ John Blair.
„ Robert Shaw.
„ John M'Intyre.
„ Peter Coats.
„ Thomas Henderson.
„ J. S. Brown.
„ John Brown, Queen-street.
„ Walter Allison.
„ The Ministers of the Town of all denominations.

Provost Bisset, or in his absence, any of the bailies, to be convener. Mr. Andrew Warnock was also appointed to act as treasurer.

It was farther resolved, That, in addition to what may be raised by the proposed voluntary assessment, an opportunity shall be given to benevolent individuals not in the town or district, but connected with both localities, to subcribe what they may please to the General Relief Fund; and the contributions of such of the inhabitants as may not be assessed at all, or who may be inclined to give *beyond* the proposed allocation, shall also be most thankfully received. And it was recommended to the committee to appropriate such donations to the providing of suitable work for those of the unemployed who may be willing to avail themselves of it.

(signed) *Robert Bisset*, Chairman.

On the motion of Archibald Hastie, Esq., M. P., the thanks of the meeting were given to the provost for his conduct in the chair.

(signed) *Robert Wilson*, Clerk.

1158. Have you any thing to state with respect to that meeting?—It speaks for itself; I took a particular interest in that meeting. It fell to me to make the motion, which was then adopted by a very large majority, in regard to a voluntary assessment, which was resolved upon in the first instance, and which was carried into effect, although a considerable part of it was never collected, owing to the distress becoming rapidly so general.

1159. Have you in the course of your duties had much intercourse with the working population of Paisley during the period of the distress?—I have, both as a minister and as chairman of that committee, and as chairman of another committee, the Committee of Emigration. This last has brought me into contact with a great many most respectable operatives, who were anxious, on account of the distress and their inability to obtain relief, to emigrate to Canada or Australia.

1160. The Committee are to understand that you have had a great deal of intercourse with the working classes during the period of the distress, and have taken an anxious and a deep interest in their condition?—I have endeavoured to do so, according to my opportunities.

1161. Have you visited them in their dwelling-houses to ascertain their condition?—I have.

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1162. Have you done so extensively?—I have, extensively.

1163. Will you state generally, but as briefly as you can, your opinion of the distress which has pervaded Paisley, from the period you mention up to the time you left them?—I have seen many periods of depression and distress in Paisley. This is now the third time I have been called to this large metropolis on this subject, but I never saw such a period of distress, so deep and so long continued, as the present. I consider that the operation of the distress has been to an unprecedented extent in the history of Paisley for the last thirty years—that it has affected a class of persons in the community who were not affected before, persons considerably above the level of the working classes, and that it has had a very pernicious effect on the interests of education, religion and public morals in the community. On that point, I have taken the liberty to put my views, as the result of my observations, on paper; and if the Committee would allow me, I would avail myself of them.

1164. Have the goodness to answer the question, referring to the notes you have prepared?—All our congregations, and specially such as depend on the voluntary support of their members—and this applies to five out of six—have been affected more or less severely by the present commercial distress. Many of the members have been obliged to pawn their articles of clothing and furniture, in order to enable them to obtain food; while many others, whose clothing had been worn out, could not, in consequence of the distress, replace it; and notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions made by the office-bearers of our congregations in rendering them assistance, still a great many are prevented from attending on divine ordinances. The great majority of operatives who are members of churches, have, in consequence of the distress, been unable to contribute for the support of religious institutions, as they did formerly. The claims on the funds of congregations by poor members have increased very considerably during the last two years. Many friendly or benevolent societies, whose members assist each other in sickness, have been of late entirely broken up, while the societies that still remain contain within them many members who have the utmost difficulty in making payment of the necessary subscriptions to keep them on the society. The members who are in these circumstances have greatly increased within the last two years. For these statements, I have written documents from different congregations, duly attested, in addition to my own personal knowledge. Although I have no pecuniary interest in it for myself, still it is refreshing to perceive that, upon any partial return of prosperity, the sitters in congregations often bring their 1*s.* or 2*s.* in payment of seats, for which they feel themselves morally responsible, though not legally, because their names do not appear in the church books, as they had not formally taken seats,—a moral feeling so obviously thus not dead, though it may be chilled by the influence of poverty. Another proof of a desire for religious instruction being yet in existence, may be given by stating, that the draw-boys who assist the weavers, have no sooner been put in possession of a little money, than they have commenced to supply themselves with copies of the sacred Scriptures. "Within the last two days," observed the intelligent secretary of our Sabbath schools to me last week, "more young people of this class have bought for themselves Bibles and Testaments than they did during the last two months or longer, and yet they have had little more than a few days' partial sunshine of a doubtful prosperity."

1165. In an account of the sums which were sent to Paisley for the relief of the distressed within the period to which you have spoken, 4,670*l.* were set down under the name of "contributions made in various parts of Scotland by the clergy for Paisley;" can you, as chairman of the clergymen in Paisley, inform the Committee generally in what way that sum of 4,670*l.* was appropriated?—About 3,200*l.* was appropriated in food and clothing to a more respectable class of recipients than were usually supplied by the public distribution, a class whose feelings and moral status would have been injured very materially by public exposure of their circumstances and a public supply; and it was found necessary to distribute what was required for their relief in a more private mode, through the medium of the ministers and office-bearers of the churches. Of the same sum of 3,200*l.* about 800*l.* were appropriated to the maintenance of schools for the unemployed, the distribution of coals and clothing, and the maintenance of schools of industry for educating young females in the arts of domestic life.

1166. Do you mean coals and clothing for the schools or for general distribution?—A part of it was appropriated to the supply of members of churches; but apart from the schools, there were clothing and coals given to such persons.

1167. Were

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1167. Were those to whom relief was given in this way on any other public Relief Fund?—No, no other.

1168. Are the Committee to understand, that the motive with you and your brethren was to distribute those funds in such a way as would be most beneficial and at the same time most pleasant to the feelings of those who, having been in better circumstances, would have felt more deeply a more open mode of receiving relief?—Yes, precisely so.

1169. Have those funds been all expended?—There is a small sum of 40*l.* still on hand in the bank.

1170. You have stated that a considerable portion of this money was expended in schools for youth, and in seminaries for female industry; can you give the Committee any correct information to what numbers the benefit of that system was extended, separating the males from the females?—The cause of education has greatly retrograded in consequence of the prevailing poverty of Paisley; the misery of the people has had an adverse influence on education in two ways:—First, by driving qualified teachers from town, from the scantiness of their emoluments; and deterring superior teachers from succeeding them, for the same cause. Secondly, by reconciling an artisan to an education for his children consisting in a mere ability to read, and in a few instances to write a little; a good substantial education is hardly expected; a superior education is not aimed at; our weavers put their children under the care of persons who can read, but can do nothing more, and who undertake to teach others to read for 1*d.* or 1½*d.* per week; in many cases no attempt whatever is made to educate the young, and, except at seminaries of a very humble character, and those where small weekly payments are taken, the child of an operative is scarcely to be found. In a healthy state of things, one out of every six or seven of the population ought to be attending school. In 1834 the proportion with us, as reported in the presbyterial return to the General Assembly, was so low as one in 12; at present it is scarcely one in 16, charity schools included. In consequence of the unprecedentedly prolonged period of stagnation in trade, several thousands of young persons who are usually employed in the manufactures of the place, were for many months thrown entirely idle. The committee of clergymen and office-bearers of different religious denominations acting in connexion with the General Relief Board, gathered them into schools, and employed as teachers, at a small weekly sum, not only such of the ordinary schoolmasters as were suffering from the depression, but betwixt 60 and 70 intelligent operatives, themselves out of work, and in the course of being devolved on the public supply. The number of teachers thus employed in elementary and religious training at 25 seminaries amounted together to about 80, and the pupils to about 2,500, of whom two-thirds were boys. There were also opened six schools of industry for training young girls, out of work, in the art of sewing, and of making and mending stockings and other articles of domestic utility. These schools were taught by about 25 females under the superintendence of the benevolent ladies of the town and near neighbourhood, whose exemplary labours and conduct throughout, entitled them to the highest praise. Of all these schools I beg to hand to the Chairman a printed account—[*delivering in the same*].—We expended on these schools about 800*l.*, as I have before stated, including shoes or other articles of clothing for the children.

1171. Can you state to the Committee about how much per week each of those schoolmasters received for their services in that capacity?—We generally gave them a shilling a day, and there were a few teachers, superintendents of large schools, to whom we gave an additional shilling per week; the female teachers receiving from 3*s.* to 5*s.* per week, according to the time occupied in the female schools.

1172. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Did this begin about the month of January 1842?—It did, and it continued in full operation till the 1st of April 1842.

1173. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] It was during those three months the sum of 800*l.* was expended?—Yes.

1174. You stated that this sum of 4,670*l.* was placed at the disposal of a committee consisting of clergymen and office-bearers in the church?—It was, but we expended only 3,200*l.*; the rest was placed in the hands of the General Relief Committee, and was expended for the general purposes of the fund.

1175. Of this you state that a considerable portion was expended by you and the other ministers, who thus relieved a class above those who were relieved by the common fund?—Yes.

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1176. And that a part was expended in education and the purchase of coals and clothes?—Yes.

1177. Did the committee keep books?—They did.

1178. What was the nature of the accounts they kept?—Regular accounts in the hands of a treasurer, and minutes in the hands of a secretary.

1179. Did that account state the names of the persons who received the relief?—Each minister or elder had his own book, in which the names of all the persons receiving relief from them were entered, and those were at any time patent to any member of the committee who wished to examine them. For obvious reasons it was thought preferable that those books should be kept by each minister, taking charge of his own distribution, rather than recording them in a public roll; the very reason that led us to adopt that plan led us to conduct the matter with as great regard to the delicate feelings of the recipients as possible.

1180. Are the Committee to understand that each minister or office-bearer was responsible that the individuals to whom he gave this relief were fitting subjects for that relief?—Quite so.

1181. Did the task of inquiring into the nature of the destitution of those particular persons devolve on the minister or office-bearer alone?—On the minister and office-bearers of his congregation. We had confidence in their doing the duties fairly and ably, and we have had no cause to regret having adopted that plan; but they were subject to review from time to time at the weekly meeting; we met weekly, and all those matters were subject to review.

1182. Were they generally reviewed?—We did not think it necessary to go into a general review of the whole. We had that degree of confidence in the judgment and information of the minister and elders of each congregation, that we thought it unnecessary to be more minute in scrutinizing the circumstances of individual members. We were frequently incapable of giving additional information to what we had received through the most authentic of all channels, namely, the ministers and office-bearers of the congregations with which those people were connected. That is the most direct of all channels of information in Scotland.

1183. Was this fund divided into certain portions for the different districts, or was it drawn upon by the ministers of the separate churches?—It was drawn upon by the ministers and office-bearers of the separate churches from time to time, as their necessities required; and according to the deliberate opinion of the office-bearers of the churches, stated to us from week to week.

1184. Had the ministers and office-bearers of the several churches power to draw upon this fund, without the sanction of the committee generally?—No, not without the sanction of the whole committee of ministers and office-bearers.

1185. They brought their case before the committee?—Yes; we met from week to week; it was no sinecure; every Wednesday from six o'clock frequently till 12 at night, and our matters were investigated with all the accuracy and faithfulness of which we were masters; the members of committee attended there upon those occasions, and devoted a great deal of time and attention to the business of inquiry and personal distribution.

1186. In what manner were those sums distributed?—Partly in donations of money, and partly in redeeming clothes from pawn, and, in some few cases, distributions of, perhaps, provisions, but in very few such cases; it was mostly money and clothing and redeeming from pawns.

1187. Mr. *Hastie*.] Do not the elders of any congregation generally know almost every one who attends the church?—They do; the congregations are divided into districts, and are put under the charge of the respective elders, who know them all well, particularly those who are members, for they distribute their tokens to them four times a year.

1188. From the position in which they were placed, they were well acquainted with the means, as well as the habits and industry, of the parties to whom they distributed this fund?—They were; far better than any other individuals can be supposed to be.

1189. Those elders are generally the most active and pious in the congregation?—They are.

1190. Selected by whom?—In all dissenting churches, chosen by the communicants at large; in the established churches, chosen by the existing eldership, subject to the veto of the congregation. Since May last the mode of electing elders in the churches of the establishment has been more nearly assimilated to that practised among dissenters.

1191. Including

1191. Including the clergymen in both cases?—Certainly.

1192. In the distribution of this fund, application is made by the member of the church to the elder?—Yes.

1193. The elder would examine into his circumstances, would report to his clergyman that such a person, a member of his congregation, was in such a condition, and state that he required relief?—Yes.

1194. Then the clergyman would probably suggest that it was better to give him relief, and would report what had been done, and the name of the party?—He would report to his own session assembled together, the case, and they would judge of it, but unless we specially asked the minister to reveal that particular case in the public board, we thought it unnecessary to hurt the feelings of respectable families by bringing them before our public board; for our board was nearly as public as the General Committee; it consisted of about 15 ministers, and at least as many elders. We adopted the measures that appeared to us most likely to secure faithfulness in the application, consistent with a due regard to the delicate feelings and the respectability of families who were relieved.

1195. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You speak of ministers of all persuasions?—Of all protestant persuasions.

1196. Mr. *Hastie.*] It was not at all likely, that under the distribution of this fund by persons so well acquainted with the habits of the people, any mal-appropriation of the funds would take place?—It was exceedingly unlikely.

1197. *Chairman.*] Were impostors upon the fund of which you are now speaking, successful in obtaining relief?—There were instances of attempts to impose, there can be no doubt of that, as there always will be; but I believe these were as few as could be reasonably expected.

1198. Did the mode of distribution you have now described, under the superintendence of the clergy and elders, appear to give satisfaction to those who were in distressed circumstances, and were the recipients of this fund?—Very great satisfaction; and the moral effect of it has been most favourable to the general interests of the community.

1199. You have said that this sum has been limited to a residue of 40*l.*?—Yes; and I ought to add, that the whole management was conducted without one penny of expense for clerks, office-bearers, or any thing beyond menial assistance.

1200. You have stated to this Committee that your board consisted of about 15 clergymen, with office-bearers; to what number?—About 20; some of the congregations being larger, had two; others had only one; and one or two, perhaps, had only the minister, being small churches.

1201. Was it always the same elder who attended, or did they take the duty in turn?—It was not always the same elder who attended; there were a number of elders chosen as properly members of the committee; these generally attended; but when they could not attend, or when it was thought proper in any circumstances, a deputation from the sessions, over and above these, attended to give information, and those deputations were very frequent; perhaps two elders came from one of the congregations, stating circumstances, and asking the sum which might be necessary.

1202. You have stated to the Committee the mode in which those funds were administered, and the opinion you entertained of the way in which they were received, also that the funds have been reduced to the small amount of 40*l.*; in the present state of Paisley, were those funds to be replenished, would you as a clergyman again apply that addition to the funds in a similar manner?—We would consider it our duty to do so; it is exceedingly desirable that in the present state of Paisley a sum should be placed at our disposal, which might be turned to some beneficial effect; for the distress at Paisley is still very deep and very general, and any partial revival, while it may have taken up the larger proportion of what we call good weavers, has still left a great deal of distress among the families in the community.

1203. You stated that the schools, both for boys and females, were carried on until a certain period of the year 1842; are the Committee to understand that since that period those schools and seminaries have ceased?—The greater part of them have ceased; we still give assistance to three schools.

1204. From the same fund?—Yes.

1205. Do you consider that the boys and girls who at the time you speak of were in those schools, are now running about idle without any education?—No; a considerable proportion of the draw-boys are now engaged assisting weavers; but

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but a large proportion both of boys and girls are unemployed, and are growing up destitute of education.

1206. You have stated to this Committee, that you are a member of two committees and one board for the distribution of charity?—I was; I am a member of only two now.

1207. When did you cease to be a member of the third?—That of which I have ceased to be a member, was the General Committee for Distribution.

1208. At what time did you cease to be a member of that board?—I ceased to be a member of that board, I think, about the beginning of June 1842; it is difficult for me to know the exact date, as no notice was given to me; I think we continued to act as members of that committee till about the beginning of June 1842; from that period the Relief Fund was re-organized, and the clergymen of all denominations were excluded from it; in that way I ceased to be a member.

1209. Were the clergymen of all denominations excluded from it, or were they merely left out?—The committee was re-organized, and they were all left out; the clergy did not form a part of its composition.

1210. Did the fact of the clergymen not composing that committee, give any offence to that body?—Very considerable offence; we considered it a slight, and rather an odd kind of reward for all the labour we had bestowed upon the suffering community, and the large sum of money that we had been instrumental in raising by our circular to the churches.

1211. Mr. *Manners Sutton*.] The largest portion of that sum did not go into the hands of the General Relief Committee, did it?—I have already stated that about 3,200 *l*. was spent by us, but we were acting all that time as a committee of the general board, with their knowledge and approbation.

1212. But not under their directions?—Not directly; the object was to have it done more privately, but still it was with their knowledge and approbation, and our books were open to them at all times.

1213. Of this large sum gained by means of the circular of the ministers of Paisley, which amounted to 4,670*l*., 3,200*l*. was not spent by the General Relief Committee?—Just so; it was spent by us; the remaining 1,470*l*. was turned over to them.

1214. That was placed by your board at the disposal of the General Relief Committee at Paisley?—Yes, but it is proper to notice that the 800 *l*. was part of the 3,200 *l*. to which I have referred, as expended by the ministers and elders.

1215. Whilst you were a member of the General Relief Committee of Paisley, and giving your attention to it, did you find that impostors were generally successful in getting upon that fund?—Not generally successful; there were a few cases of imposition practised, but great care was taken; I apprehend that prevented it. I hold in my hand a paper drawn up by Mr. Sheriff Campbell and Mr. Baird, and printed at the time, on that subject; the date of that paper is the 3d of March 1842, in which they say, "In the expenditure of this fund the committee has practised the most stringent economy, which the circumstances of the case or a regard to the preservation of life appeared to them to permit. During the rigours of winter they found it necessary to expend a portion of their means in procuring coals and clothing, and in partially relieving bed as well as body clothes from pawn, as hundreds of families had parted with every remnant of their bed-clothes before coming on the fund, so as to eke out the scanty allowance which it was in the power of the committee to afford. At the same time they found it necessary to add a little to the previous very limited allowance for daily food; but the allowance has been reduced, since the season became somewhat milder, to its previous amount. At no time did the relief exceed 2*d*. a head per day, and at present it is considerably below that sum."—"In consequence of an apprehension entertained by many, that frauds and impositions must have been practised on the managers of the fund, and that the numbers truly destitute could not be so large as was affirmed, a committee of impartial and independent gentlemen was some weeks ago formed for the purpose of an effective scrutiny. Their report has been laid on the table within these few days past; and it is a striking fact, that after a laborious investigation, the committee have detected very few instances of wilful imposition, while the conviction has been strongly forced upon them, that there are scenes of great suffering which have never yet obtruded themselves on the public eye."

1216. Do you agree in the statement of that letter by Mr. Sheriff Campbell and

and the Rev. Mr. Baird?—Yes, entirely; I was a member of the committee, and concurred with them in that report.

1217. Is it your opinion that even up to this time, while impostors have endeavoured to get upon the fund, they have not been generally successful?—I do not think there has been imposition to any great extent; I know this, that a considerable number of complaints have come before the magistrates, of weavers attempting to continue on the supply after they had got webs; but I know also that in five cases out of six the magistrates have felt it the most painful thing in the world to convict, inasmuch as the circumstances of those poor men were such as to afford a very strong temptation not to let it be known to the committee at once that they had got a web; and if they had got a web it does not come into operation so as to put any thing into their way, probably, till some weeks after it is got, and it is quite common to allow a weaver to continue on the supply two weeks, or so, after he has got a web, that his family may be supplied till the time that he draws his wages; and I know, further, that the magistrates have found it necessary to give a hint to the procurator-fiscal of the town to be very cautious in bringing cases of that kind before their tribunals. I have reason to think, also, the sheriff and justices concurred with them in that opinion; great apology was due to poor starving men who have been kept on a miserable pittance from the supply, if they should in some instances, not at once mention the fact of their having got a web, but perhaps take the supply for a week or so beyond it; some instances, however, of wilful imposition were discovered, and punished with imprisonment or otherwise.

1218. In the course of the distribution of these funds which had been placed under the charge of the clergy, was there any application of them made to the distribution of clothes, or shoes, or books, to the scholars in the schools you have mentioned?—All that is included in the sum I have mentioned, 800*l.*

1219. There was such a distribution of clothes, and shoes, and books?—Yes, a trifling sum for spelling-books; we got presents of bibles and testaments from London, Edinburgh and Glasgow; all we expended on books of all kinds, including writing materials and so forth, would be under 40*l.*

1220. Mr. *Pringle.*] Is it your opinion that this more private mode of giving relief would tend to increase the number of applicants beyond those who would choose to apply to the General Committee?—I do not think it had that tendency; but it had the tendency of preventing our overlooking many very worthy objects in distress, who would rather starve than make a public exposure of their circumstances; it gave us an opportunity of ascertaining the state of necessity of those persons, and affording them relief in the most delicate and effectual way.

1221. Were those persons relieved who you think would not have applied for relief to the General Committee?—I am sure of that; their feelings would have been so outraged by doing so, that they would rather have allowed themselves to be reduced to the lowest extremity than do it; but they were not persons not entitled to relief, but in fact the very best persons for giving relief to. It is a great mistake to suppose that the pressure has been merely on what are called the humbler classes or operatives. It has reached to persons considerably above them in station and moral status, and our object was the administering relief to those who might have been otherwise overlooked, or whose feelings of delicacy were such as would have prevented their making an application.

1222. Mr. *Smollett.*] Many of those persons so relieved were prevented coming on the other fund?—Yes; they must have been precipitated upon the other fund, more or less, if we had not relieved them in that way.

1223. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You state, that, upon the whole, you consider abuses were successfully guarded against?—Generally speaking.

1224. Was not a considerable sum laid out in clothing by the Ministers' Relief Fund and the General Committee?—There was; but not to the extent which ought to have been; that is my deliberate opinion.

1225. Do you know what proportion of the Ministers' Fund was laid out in clothing?—In addition to what was laid out for the children—clothes and shoes for the children—there might be about 300*l.* expended in clothing generally the members of churches.

1226. So that about 300*l.* of the 3,200*l.* was laid out in clothing, and 800*l.* was laid out in education?—Education and clothing of the children attending the schools.

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1227. Was the clothing the children attending the schools with a view to giving them superior clothing to come to the schools?—It was to enable them to attend the schools during the rigours of winter; they were so miserably clothed, totally destitute of shoes and stockings, and garments; so miserably clothed, their parents being mostly on the Supply Fund, that we found it absolutely necessary to do something for their relief, and in doing so we saved the necessity of the General Fund being to that extent burdened; the parents of those children were, with few exceptions, upon the Supply Fund.

1228. Are you aware of the amount of money laid out in clothing from the Relief Fund?—I got a grant, one day, with great difficulty, of 500*l.* I pleaded, another day, for a grant of 100*l.*, to supply shoes to 700 or 800 workmen, employed on the streets and on the river; and I think 20*l.* was that day voted. I do not think the General Supply Fund appropriated more than perhaps 700*l.* in all to the clothing, including shoes. I found it impossible to get an adequate supply for the labouring men employed at out-door labour; and I had, at my own personal command, about 200*l.*, funds from America particularly, that I laid out in purchasing 700 pairs of shoes to supply those men whom, along with the inspectors of their public operations, I found working in the dead of winter in a state, as to clothing, and particularly shoes and stockings, highly discreditable to any civilized community.

1229. You do not recollect a vote of 250*l.* being passed by the committee for the purposes of clothing?—I think that was the half of the 500*l.*

1230. You do not recollect another vote, to the amount of 700*l.*, also for clothing?—That 700*l.* included, I think, 400*l.*, of what we have already accounted for as devoted to children's clothing; those grants were always allowed by the general body, and that 700*l.* includes what was intended for schools; it was paid out of the Ministers' Fund, but they were mixed up very much together; there was a mixing up of those funds, and whatever we ministers gave for clothing, came first before the general body, with the exception of probably a hundred pounds or two, which we distributed on our own responsibility.

1231. If it has been stated to the Committee that the total expense of clothing in Paisley has amounted to from 1,200*l.* to 1,500*l.*, your impression is, that that sum would include both what was supplied from the Relief Fund, and that supplied from the Ministers' Fund?—I think it would; but a very large supply of the clothing was furnished us in kind by individual friends, such as Mr. Saltmarsh, and others; but I have not examined minutely all the sums voted by the general relief body, because I have had no connexion with that relief body since June 1842. I cannot say what they have been giving out since that, nor have I examined minutely any of the grants made from time to time; but my impression, speaking from memory, is, that the sum must have been larger than 1,500*l.*; that the money actually voted by the one committee and the other for clothing, could not be less than 2,000*l.*

1232. Still whatever the sum of money laid out on clothing was, you conceive it was judiciously expended, and without great abuse?—Most judiciously expended, and without any abuse.

1233. If it has been stated that when visits were made to the houses of the poor for the purpose of discovering their want of clothing, clothes were removed in order to give the houses an appearance of greater destitution, you do not believe that statement to be well founded?—That abuses were attempted in all departments is beyond all question, and in all cases of the kind it will be so; but I am not aware that there was any peculiar species of imposition practised to any very great extent.

1234. You wish the Committee to understand that in the clothing department, as in the other departments of relief, there was great caution exercised, and little abuse practised?—I do think so; and I beg, moreover, to say that my impression is that the most valuable of all kinds of distribution was that given in clothing and in shoes for the out-door labourers.

1235. And you consider that that mode of giving relief was perhaps as little susceptible of abuse as any?—As little; I have heard of instances of pawning shoes, and in one instance a pair of shoes was sold for drink, but those were in very few cases,—rather exceptions.

1236. In regard to the large sum of money voted for the purposes of education from the Ministers' Fund, was that with a view to collect in schools children who had never been in school before, or to keep up the education which had been

been practised in Paisley in better times?—It was just to occupy the boys and girls who had been employed in drawing, and other young people out of work, and who otherwise would have been going about idle, and would have been training up to bad habits.

1237. How is that large sum of 800*l.* to be accounted for; is it in the hire of school-rooms, as well as in paying masters?—In the hire of rooms, in the paying of masters, in the providing of implements, and in the supply of clothing.

1238. The fitting up of those school-rooms for those temporary purposes is included in that charge?—There was very little expended in fitting up; the places were generally prepared, for we generally had accommodation sufficient; I am not aware of what was the amount expended in those matters.

1239. Had they been school rooms before?—In many instances they were.

1240. In others in which they were not, was there a good deal of expense incurred in providing for them?—No; we were furnished with session-houses and with other places appropriated to religious meetings, and we had to hire certain public-halls, such as the Trades' Hall; but those generally were furnished with forms and desks, though in many cases very imperfectly. I have seen the children writing, or attempting to write, on the floor, for want of desks; but as the thing was temporary, we did not think it right to lay out much money in desks.

1241. *Chairman.*] You mentioned having provided shoes for a great many labourers from a fund which had been privately entrusted to you by charitable persons; will you state to the Committee what, under your observation, was the general condition of the out-door labourers in Paisley, during the period of which you have been speaking, namely, from the month of May or June 1841 up to the present time?—I consider that during the whole period of the distress, a large proportion of out-door labourers, both in the town and in the villages round it, were in a state of great destitution, and that they still are so, and that a large number of our able-bodied weavers who were employed in out-door labour were subjected to very great privations. I should consider that the provision made for them, whether in payments or in food, or in clothing, under the charge of the committee, was not at all adequate, or equal to what it used to be in former periods of distress.

1242. So far as your observation goes, would it have been possible for many of those persons, weavers and others, to have gone to out-door labour of the kind to which they were subjected, without being furnished with shoes and stockings?—I should think it impossible.

1243. Therefore the application of funds to this object was equally necessary as the providing work for them?—Most unquestionably it was.

1244. Of late there has been, you are aware, a distinction drawn in giving support from the fund, which is publicly known in Paisley, with regard to persons who had been a certain length of time on the fund, and with regard to persons from Ireland?—There has.

1245. Have the goodness to state to the Committee the effect those resolutions have had upon the community, so far as you are aware?—There has been a very general dissatisfaction in the community with regard to that measure; at the same time the actual results with regard to the distress of the families involved in the measure has not been to the extent that was at first apprehended, or that has been generally supposed. I disapprove of the resolution; the general feeling with us has been against it; I am satisfied, however, that it was done *bonâ fide*, and without any intention to inflict cruelty; certainly without the most distant intention of reflecting either on the Irish nationally, or on Roman Catholics in a religious view. I am certain, considerations of that kind had nothing to do with it; there was a mistaken idea in regard to the provision made by law for the Irish, provided they were in their own country, and help has been given to many to return to Ireland; a number also of those who were then cut off have since got work, so that my impression is, that practically there has not been that degree of distress which might have been the result of a measure which appears to me to have been precipitately gone into.

1246. Mr. *Duncan.*] You say this arose from a mistaken idea of the Irish being provided for in Ireland by the poor law?—Yes.

1247. You are aware that there is a material difference in regard to the poor in Ireland and that applicable by the Scotch law?—I am.

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1248. Are you not aware that the committee had this in view when they adopted the course they pursued?—Not being a member of that committee, I cannot say specifically what was their view, but I understand they acted under legal advice in the matter.

1249. Are you not aware that it was from knowing that they must be provided for were they sent back to Ireland?—Under the impression that they would.

1250. Mr. *Hastie.*] What is comprehended under the word "clothing" strictly?—Bed and body clothes.

1251. Of what description was the bed-clothing generally?—There was minute inquiry made, and 1,500 families were ascertained to be destitute of a blanket, not to have a single blanket in their houses; that is stated in the report drawn up by Mr. Sheriff Campbell and the Rev. Mr. Baird, to which I have before referred.

1252. *Chairman.*] In that report there will be found the precise nature of the facts to which you allude?—Yes.

[*The same was delivered in; and read, as follows:*]

ADDRESS by the Committee appointed in Paisley for the Relief of the Distressed Work-people of that Town, and the Villages in its neighbourhood, now destitute for want of Employment.

To the respectable Inhabitants of

Fellow-countrymen,

THE commercial distress which has fallen on the town of Paisley, and on other towns and villages in its neighbourhood, is not unknown to you.

The distress has been so great, and so long continued, as to give the town of Paisley and county of Renfrew an unhappy notoriety in all parts of the kingdom.

Ten months have now elapsed since this heavy calamity descended on this once flourishing town and neighbourhood. During the first five months, the unemployed operatives and their dependents were supported by the exertions which were made in the town and county. The circumstances in which the town was placed, by the insolvency of the greater part of its commercial establishments, rendered it impossible to continue to supply destitution so extensive and so long continued from mere local resources. The ruin which had fallen on the masters—the penury and wretchedness which had overtaken their workmen, and who with their dependents formed such a large portion of the population, has sunk the trade of the town into a state of depression beyond all precedent.

In this state of things, and in a town which is almost entirely a manufacturing one, there were many who could give but little to aid their suffering brethren; and not a few, who, in other times of calamity had given munificently, who could now give nothing. In the month of October, the sixth month of the distress, it was found necessary to make an appeal to the benevolence of the citizens of London, and to many of the towns and churches throughout Scotland, for the means absolutely necessary to preserve life. Our fund for the supply of the unemployed was exhausted; their numbers were daily and rapidly on the increase; and thousands, who up to this time had contrived to maintain their position in society, by the savings of former times, or by pawning their effects, were now forced down to the condition of soliciting charitable supply. This process was accelerated by the inclemency of winter, which had now set in, and by the abandonment of all hope of the revival of trade till the approach of spring. But spring has arrived, and brought with it little alleviation of the general distress.

The numbers on the General Supply Fund belonging to the town of Paisley were: on the 6th Nov. last, 7,784; 4th Dec., 11,450; 7th Jan., 12,703; 11th Feb., 14,791; and on the 25th Feb., 14,138.

The numbers on the same fund, who reside in the neighbouring villages of Johnstone, Kilbarchan, Bridge of Weir, Barrhead and Neilston, amount to 2,482, making in all 16,620 persons. In addition to this, there are about 2,500 persons, members and adherents of churches, who have been *regularly* supplied from a fund which has been raised by collections, received from churches of various denominations in all parts of the country, besides thousands who have been relieved by *occasional* supply.

In December last, Schedules of Queries on the state of the labouring classes as to clothing were circulated, and from nearly 3,000 cases reported as duly verified, such an appalling state of destitution was brought to light, as could scarcely have been anticipated. Many hundreds of families were found to be literally without beds or bed-clothes, and the pawns of former years had been irretrievably lost.

The total sum received by the Relief Committee from all sources, down to the 25th February last, was 18,564*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.*, exclusive of donations in clothing and provisions, to say nothing of private charities.

In the expenditure of this fund, the committee has practised the most stringent economy which the circumstances of the case, or a regard to the preservation of life, appeared to them to permit. During the rigours of winter, they found it necessary to expend a portion of their means in procuring coals and clothing, and in partially relieving bed as well as body clothes from pawn, as hundreds of families had parted with every remnant of their

bed-clothes

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bed-clothes before coming on the fund, so as to eke out the scanty allowance which it was in the power of the committee to afford. At the same time, they found it necessary to add a little to the previous very limited allowance for daily food; but the allowance has been reduced, since the season became somewhat milder, to its previous amount; at no time did it exceed 2*d.* a head per day, and at present it is considerably below that sum.

In concert with, or subordinate to, the Relief Committee, there are committees who provide work, by manufacturing and out-door labour for the men. There are about 800 employed in the former department, and 400 of the more robust in the latter. But besides the thousands of weavers and other work people connected with the staple manufactures of the town, there is a very numerous and highly deserving class of females who were employed in needle-work and otherwise, for whom it is exceedingly difficult to procure work of any kind.

In consequence of an apprehension entertained by many, that frauds and impositions must have been practised on the managers of the fund, and that the number truly destitute *could not* be so large as was affirmed, a committee of impartial and independent gentlemen was some weeks ago formed for the purpose of an effective scrutiny. Their Report has been laid on the table within these few days past; and it is a striking fact, that after a laborious investigation, the committee have detected very few instances of wilful imposition; while the conviction has been strongly forced upon them, that there are scenes of great suffering which have never yet obtruded themselves on the public eye.

The expenditure at this date amounts to about 800 *l.* per week. The fund at the disposal of the committee is very nearly exhausted; and while the streams of private benevolence are drying up around us, the resources of this town are entirely drained. The ordinary poor's rates, too, have become more heavy, while the ability to pay them has been materially lessened. The amount assessed for last year upon the *Burgh* of Paisley was 3,500 *l.*, and upon the Abbey Parish of Paisley, (which comprehends a considerable part of the town), was 5,350 *l.* Poor's rates, however, are by law assessable only for that class of the poor having a legal parish settlement, and who by age or infirmity are disabled from working. The rates are not extended (as in England) to able-bodied persons destitute for want of employment.

In these circumstances, a sad and imperious necessity compels us to carry our appeal to you. Already we have shared somewhat in the bounty of benevolent individuals among you. And long ere this time we had confidently hoped that we should have been spared the necessity of such an appeal; but the all-wise Disposer of events has ordered it otherwise. The time to which we had looked forward as likely to give a powerful impulse to our trade has come, and passed away, and left this great community under a burden of distress nearly as heavy as ever. We will not attempt by any pictures of individual suffering to prompt your benevolent feelings; we will leave our plain statement to speak for itself, and to a good Providence which has already opened so many kind hearts, and so many generous hands, we commit our appeal, in the humble hope that our industrious and ingenious artisans, who have become, through no fault of theirs, a prey to penury and wretchedness, will not be left to become desperate amid the horrors of hopeless destitution, in a land where wealth abounds, and where christian philanthropy has won so many splendid triumphs.

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I would take the opportunity of saying that I lately personally examined the pawnbrokers, not all of them, but a few of the most extensive, and who were persons of character, some of them members of my own congregation; I find that their stores are filled with bed and body clothes, but of a very inferior description, and indicating a very low state of the town generally as to these articles.

1253–4. Mr. *Hastie.*] Had those been lately pawned with them?—Within the last 18 months, and very few of them redeemed; in better times it was customary for persons, even in good circumstances, occasionally to pawn apparel and other articles, such as watches, bed and body clothes, articles of furniture, &c.; but those were generally redeemed within a very short time. I asked what might be the proportion of articles redeemed then as compared with the proportion now; and the answer I received in those cases in which I made the examination was, that only four articles out of a hundred were not redeemed, whereas now it is very seldom that articles put in are redeemed at all, and when brought to sale probably the result is, in most instances, unfavourable, in a pecuniary way, to the pawnbroker.

1255. *Chairman.*] Do you mean that the pawnbroker receives less than he lent upon the goods?—Yes, that the lending leaves him a loser—leaves a balance against him.

1256. Mr. *Hastie.*] The great proportion of articles distributed under the name of clothing were chiefly in bed and body clothes?—Yes, including shoes and stockings.

1257. What is meant by body clothes?—All kinds of male and female attire.

1258. *Chairman.*] Is there any thing you would wish to add?—All I would wish

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wish to say in addition is this, that my impression of the distress in Paisley amongst the various classes is, that it has been unprecedentedly severe, and that while there is a partial revival of trade just now, still I consider that our prospects in regard to the working classes and the general interests of our town as a manufacturing community, are even now very dark, and that after all that has been done by the benevolence of the public, for which we are very grateful, what we are to do in future for the maintenance of education, and for the general condition of our large community, is to me a subject of very deep anxiety; and if this honourable Committee could recommend in efficient quarters the case of Paisley as one which would require additional measures of relief, I would consider it highly acceptable, and a duty incumbent upon them. The distribution which has taken place in Paisley within the last two years, while it has relieved existing distress, has not affected the root of the evil; I am satisfied that at this moment Paisley as a whole is in as great distress as ever, and would stand in need of a repetition of the same bounty.

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1259. *Chairman.*] YOU are the resident Roman Catholic clergyman in Paisley?—I am.

1260. How long have you filled that situation?—Upwards of 13 years.

1261. Can you inform the Committee how many Roman Catholics belong to your congregation?—I should think about 10,000 or 11,000 belong to my congregation, but I have two assistants; the congregation has been divided into three parts; one at Paisley, another at Barrhead, and another at Houston.

1262. Your congregation is divided between Paisley and the two neighbouring towns?—It was formerly one congregation for all those places I mention, but lately other two chapels have been built, but they are still under my charge.

1263. Have the goodness to inform the Committee how many there are belonging to your congregation in the town of Paisley alone?—I should think upwards of 5,000.

1264. The Committee have been informed by various witnesses that a great deal of distress had existed in Paisley since the month of May or June 1841 up to this time; have the body over whom you are pastor been suffering in the distress which has visited Paisley during that time?—They have been suffering in that distress.

1265. How many of your congregation are there that belong to Ireland?—They almost all of them belong to Ireland, except those who have been born in Paisley; though their parents are Irish, they will be considered Scotch, I presume; but otherwise I may say, with very few exceptions, all my congregation is Irish by descent, and that a great many of them are natives.

1266. What is the general station in society of those persons?—They are all of the labouring classes; those, of whom there were a few, that were above that rank, have left the town in consequence of the bad state of business.

1267. Do you mean that those who were in better circumstances have left Paisley in consequence of the existing distress?—Several have done so.

1268. Have the body of whom you are speaking been generally considered as an orderly and industrious set of people?—I have always understood so; I know that on a late occasion, meeting Sheriff Campbell at a meeting of ministers, he said, in the presence of all, that he considered my congregation as orderly and as peaceable a congregation as any in the town.

1269. Do you find them, as a body, regular and attentive at divine service?—I do.

1270. Are they industrious in their habits?—They are, only that they cannot get employment; they would be very willing to do more if they could get it to do.

1271. Have they in general shared the distribution of the funds which the charitable public have sent to Paisley?—Latterly they have not; in the beginning of last year, I was absent for six months; I know there were complaints at that time, but I cannot say that I heard any of those complaints particularly substantiated after my return, but latterly they have not shared, at least many of them have not.

1272. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] The Committee have it in their evidence, that on the 6th of January in the present year, a resolution was passed in the Relief Committee

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Committee at Paisley, excluding from relief, after the 17th of that month, all the Irish who had not been for 10 years previous to the date thereof resident in Paisley: have you reason to infer that the absence of relief to which you have now referred, had any reference to the religion of the parties, inasmuch as it professed to be founded upon a reference to their country only?—In my idea, my own personal opinion has ever been, that religion was not taken into account; but I know that it was a general opinion amongst others that it was.

1273. You believed that the professed and real object of the resolution in question was one and the same, namely, that it was to exclude Irish, *qua* Irish, and not to exclude Roman Catholics as Roman Catholics?—Exactly so; I have some doubt in my mind whether it might not be with a national feeling, but I do not conceive it to be on the ground of religion.

1274. *Chairman.*] Can you state to this Committee how many persons were affected by the resolution to strike off all the Irish who had not been more than 10 years resident in Paisley?—I have made an examination on that subject as far as I was able, and, I think, about 200 persons, dependents included, is the number I have found belonging to my congregation.

1275. Was it supposed at first to include a larger number, and if so, state what the impression was of that number?—It was supposed that it would have included from 1,000 to 1,500; I have had that from one of the members of the committee; I myself imagined there would be a great many more than I afterwards found, on the inquiries I was able to make; in fact, I thought also a much greater number of my people had been upon the Relief Fund than I found on examination was the case.

1276. Was there any previous notice given of the intention of striking those off the list, of whom you have been speaking?—If I recollect right, I think there was a week's notice.

1277. Did the announcement appear to be of a very unusual character?—Yes, it caused a great deal of very bad feeling; there was a great deal of surprise on all hands; I found it caused bad feeling in every direction, particularly among my own people; they never had dreamt that any such resolution would ever be come to.

1278. Can you state whether this resolution considerably augmented, or augmented at all, the destitution in which the recipients of the fund were involved at the time of its announcement?—It augmented it very considerably, but I should require to explain a little there; they had come to a resolution before, to cut off all those that had been one year upon the Relief Fund, and they had also resolved not to admit any new cases, no matter how destitute they might be, upon the fund; all the young men and the single women were also struck off, and the labourers were, I think, very improperly treated; the great body of them belonged to me, so that, besides the numbers who were directly struck off, there were a great number of my people who were considerably affected by the resolutions which were come to.

1279. Do you mean the Committee to understand that, independently of the number directly struck off, a considerable number of labourers, and those otherwise employed in Paisley, were kept off the fund, and so added to the number?—Yes, a good many were; I mention the labourers by themselves, because it requires me to enter more into their case, to show the state of destitution in which they were, and that all those reduced to poverty would not be taken on.

1280. Can you distinguish the different classes who were kept off the Relief Fund in consequence of the resolution not to receive the cases of new applicants?—I am not able to give the number of the labourers; there were, I think, 170 or 175 who were bandied about; they made applications again and again; then they gave them some work, but only paid them when they wrought; they set them to break stones, and if it was a rainy day or the snow was falling, they could not work, and perhaps a person sent in that way might earn 7*d.*, which might constitute the whole of his week's earnings; then they sent others to Lord Blantyre's; they had to walk some six or seven miles to their work and back again; the average the best person could make there was about 10*d.* a day; perhaps they had only two days' work in the week, and some not any at all, if the weather was very inclement; some could make 6*d.* and some 7*d.*, but I found the best workers could not, taking the average, make more than 10*d.* a day, and then they had not the work every day, only the days the weather permitted.

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1281. Besides the doing their work, they had to travel a distance of 12 or 14 miles a day in going and returning?—Yes, some of them had eight miles to go and eight to return, depending upon the part of the town from which they started.

1282. Was any reason assigned publicly for striking those persons off, and excluding the others from the Relief Committee?—It was stated, with regard to striking off those non-resident, that they could fall back upon their own country, and get relief by the poor law of Ireland; but I had occasion to meet with the sheriff, and in the presence of witnesses I asked him whether he was sure that the poor law guardians of Ireland would take charge of those persons that had been 10 years resident in Paisley, if they were sent back to Ireland again; and he said, that he had thought so, but that doubts now had occurred to him, and that he would make inquiry; but in the meantime those doubts were of no benefit whatever to the persons who had been struck off, and he himself previously had moved a resolution, as I saw from the minutes, that any natives of Ireland who had not obtained legal settlements (this was a year before) should be shipped off, their passage paid, and a suitable supply of bread given them for the voyage; but upon this second occasion, in the month of January, there was no talk whatever of paying their passage, or of giving them a single morsel of bread; they were left in the depth of winter, with nobody to care for them, or to pay any attention to them; besides, it does not appear, from any inquiry I have been able to make, that if they did go back the poor law guardians would take them; besides that, I have inquired of persons of distinction in the country, and I considered that they had a fair right to their own share of the money subscribed for the unemployed in Paisley, without any distinction being made.

1283. Did the announcement of the resolution cause very considerable excitement among those affected by it?—It did, and amongst the Irish in Glasgow and in other places where it was made known.

1284. Has that excitement in Paisley subsided?—No; the feeling with regard to the resolution is still the same in Paisley, and I believe everywhere where it has become known.

1285. What was the nature of the feeling which was caused by the announcement?—A feeling of indignation and disgust at being singled out in that way.

1286. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Was there not a public meeting held upon the subject?—There were several; there was one in Paisley, one in Glasgow, and one in Edinburgh.

1287. Was the meeting in Paisley held in a public hall or church?—The one in Paisley in the chapel; at Glasgow in a school-room, also used on Sundays for a chapel, and in Edinburgh in the Merchants-hall.

1288. In Paisley the meeting was held in your own chapel?—Yes.

1289. *Chairman.*] Have the Irish inhabitants of Paisley lived on good terms with their neighbours during your experience?—Always during the last 13 years.

1290. Have they mutually exchanged kindness towards each other?—Always, so far as I have known.

1291. Was there any distinction ever made before in their treatment, except on the occasion of the resolution passed a year ago and the present, to your knowledge?—Not that I recollect.

1292. Were there any sums sent specially from Ireland for the assistance generally of the distressed in Paisley?—There were; I heard it stated that one gentleman had sent a considerable sum, but I was absent at the time in Ireland myself; there were also several sums collected in Scotland.

1293. Have any monies been sent to your charge, or collected otherwise, since those persons you have spoken of were struck off?—There have; I wrote to my personal friends, representing the case, and many sent me sums, smaller or larger, for the purpose of affording relief.

1294. Through other means—the Committee are to understand that those who were struck off the list have had assistance given to them by charitable persons from other quarters?—By private applications, I have received monies from England, Ireland and Scotland, which monies I distributed to the distressed—first to those who were struck off principally, then to those again who could not get upon the relief in consequence of the resolution to take on no new case, and then again to the labourers, and even to those who were upon the Relief Fund, when I did not consider that what the Relief Committee gave was sufficient for the sustenance

tenance of life, and that I have done without any distinction of creed, provided they were Irish, and affected by the resolutions of the Committee.

1295. Can you inform the Committee whether the resolutions as to those struck off, and the new applicants who had not been allowed to come upon the list, are still in force or not?—They are still in force, as far as I have learnt. I am quite sure that those that have been struck off have never been put on again, and I am certain that no new applicants have been taken on.

1296. Up to what time do you speak?—To last Friday night, when I left Paisley.

1297. In the petition which was sent from Paisley to be presented to the House of Commons; it was stated that some hundreds had been affected by these resolutions; can you account to this Committee for the allegation as to the numbers stated in that petition not turning out to be true?—I consider that they have turned out to be perfectly true, though not in one respect, as I imagined some hundreds must have been cut off by the resolution affecting all those who had not been ten years resident. I find that about 200 were so struck off; but when I take into account the young men and the young women, and when I take into account that no new case was to be taken on, and when I take the labourers into account, I am quite sure there would be at any rate 500, even after my investigation, that stood very much in need of assistance; and I do not see, unless something more is done, what is to be the result of it. The week before last I doled out some relief to 1,500 persons, all of whom were in a state of great want.

1298. Were they your own hearers?—Not all my own hearers, some were Episcopalians and some Presbyterians, but they were all Irish.

1299. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] The resolution to which you are alluding, stating that no new applicant would be taken on the Relief List, was not a resolution applying solely to the Irish?—No, it applied generally.

1300. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] If the total number, including dependents, be 200, how do you reconcile the answer given in the former instance with the answer that you now give, that some hundreds, at least 500, were virtually included in the class to which relief was no longer extended?—I stated that my impression at the time was, and it was the impression of the committee, that the number cut off by that resolution would have been much greater, and it was under that impression that we called a meeting, and that the petition was drawn up and sent; in fact, no one had any doubt that it would be much greater. I afterwards caused an examination to be made, and I found the number to be about 200; but then besides this, I found the resolutions of the committee were affecting a much greater number, though that one had not gone to the extent to which I supposed it had gone; and I found on an examination of the whole affair, that the Irish in Paisley had come much more lightly on the Relief Fund than I anticipated, which I explain in this way, that as long as there was any railway work going on, the fathers and elder brothers were working here and there, and sending money to their families; and those public works are mostly finished now.

1301. In a late answer you referred to Episcopalians and Presbyterians as receiving relief, being recipients under your own cognizance; do you mean any others than your own congregation; do you include the members of the Protestant Episcopalian Church?—I include them.

1302. Under the reverend Mr. Wade?—Yes; he called upon me, I told him if any of his people were cut off by this resolution, on receipt of a line from him, specifying their character, I would make no distinction, and the same with other ministers, the dissenting ministers in the town.

1303. Can you state the number in that congregation of Mr. Wade's?—I cannot state the number in that congregation; I know there were 20 or 26 came one day; and Mr. Wade, after he had called upon me, wrote that he had been examining those persons, and that where he found deserving characters he would give them something himself, and seemed, after thanking me for having made the offer, to say that he declined sending any of them. Then I made another resolution with regard to them, that if their neighbours would give them a good character, I would relieve them, and several other ministers have sent me their people.

1304. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] Are you aware of the number of male heads of Irish families affected by the resolution that Irish who had not been 10 years in

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the town should be excluded from the fund?—I am not aware of the number of heads of families, but the number I have given, I think about 200, is correct; from the list I made myself, I saw that there were 10 or 12 families that were mentioned in that list, but in the list they had caused to be made out those families were not included, as being cut off in consequence of that resolution of the committee.

1305. The result of your investigation, as far as you are aware, was not the same as the result of the investigation of the Relief Committee?—It does not appear to have been the same.

1306. How do you explain that difference; does it arise from any confusion as to those portions of the Irish who were refused relief on account of no new claimants being admitted with the class struck off?—I cannot tell how it may have arisen; I went myself to some, and sent 30 individuals through the town to take down the names, and to mark particularly those who had been struck off; I did not take notice so much of heads of families as persons struck off, and I find on my list of families perhaps a widow with three or four children, or a man with so many in family; I examined the names upon their list, and did not find those names.

1307. How did you know that those families were struck off under this resolution?—That was expressed on the answer put on the list, that they had been on the list and had been struck off.

1308. That was their own statement to the individuals who went round to them?—Yes.

1309. If this conclusion to which the committee came was based on a knowledge of their own books, and referring to the names of those who remained on after the resolution passed, you would probably consider the result of their investigation as more correct than the result of an investigation conducted as you state yours was, and founded on the statement of the individuals themselves?—The committee went into a second investigation, how many had been affected; and I know that schedules were given out, and I was called upon to sign many of them; I know that several of those who got their schedules did not sign or return them.

1310. You are speaking of schedules sent out, not by the committee, but by the magistrates, are you not?—I do not know who sent them out.

1311. *Chairman.*] Did the Paisley Relief Committee make any communication to you, or in any quarter, to your knowledge, of the numbers who would be struck off by that resolution?—Never.

1312. You had to find out, in the best way you could, what numbers were affected by that?—I had.

1313. Did the parties who were affected know previously that they should be so deprived; had they means of knowing that they were no longer to be continued on the fund?—They got a week's warning; I think they were told, in the last case, that they would not get stores, but would get money.

1314. Mr. *Duncan.*] Was there any reason assigned for paying this last instalment in money?—I cannot say that I heard any other reason than a mere surmise that the money was intended to take them out of the town, but the sum was such that it was impossible; giving to a family 3*s.* 6*d.*, a man with his wife and four or five children, would not take them out of the town or pay their passage.

1315. Mr. *Pringle.*] You state that the larger class of the Irish were labourers; do you know whether many have been removed from Paisley in consequence of the distress?—A great many have gone to America; some have been obliged to return, in consequence of not finding employment; many would return, but they cannot find money to bring them back, having left their families; others who have gone have sent for their families since.

1316. From that circumstance, that it is chiefly the class of labourers, it turned out that those on the Relief Fund did not form so great a proportion as had been anticipated?—Just so; that is my opinion.

1317. You state that several went to America; were they assisted in doing so?—Some of them were; there were five or six families in my congregation were assisted to go away, and embarked, in one day.

1318. By whom were those assisted to emigrate?—I was away at the time, but I think it was a Government measure.

1319. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You stated that the number of Irish struck off in consequence of the resolution was about 200?—As far as I can reckon them.

1320. The

1320. The Relief Committee agree with you in that statement; their total number is 208; they divide that in this way: male heads of families 12, their wives 10, and their dependents 30; total 52: the female heads of families 59, their dependents 97; total 156: making in the whole 208 struck off. With regard to the male heads of families there are 12, and female heads of families 59; are you aware why so much larger a proportion of female heads of families were on this list previous to their being struck off the list than of males?—I do not know exactly on what principle they have proceeded, but I have a general impression that there were living in Paisley a great number of female heads of families who had not been 10 years resident in the town; that when the trade was any thing good in Paisley, there were a great many young persons employed in Paisley, draw boys and so on. A widow coming over from Ireland with her family could find employment and means of support for them more readily in Paisley than in any other town, and I think that that is probably the reason for there being so much larger a proportion of women with children.

1321. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You think the peculiar nature of the Paisley trade would attract widows with their families?—Yes.

1322. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] You stated that there were a considerable number of Irish labourers who had procured employment out of the town, leaving their families in the town, and remitting to them such part of their wages as they were enabled to do; do you think any of those female heads of families would come under that class?—No, I do not think that; I talk of persons who have never come upon the supply at all; that was the reason which I gave why there were not so many on the supply as I had thought, in consequence of the poverty in general; that the remittance of the husband's earnings made in the public works about the country prevented the necessity of their wives and families coming upon the supply.

1323. You are not enabled perhaps to state how many belonged to your own congregation, and how many to others?—I did not make any investigation upon that; I am not able to state that.

1324. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] Among the distressed labourers in Paisley receiving relief, your impression would be that a smaller proportion would be Irish than Scotch?—Yes, I found a smaller number than I anticipated; I distinguished labourers in another way; I class the labourers in a particular class; there was a body of labourers who applied for supply, amounting to 170 or 175; they were treated in a different way from the other class; they were handed over to a Labour Committee, and it was a long time before they could get any relief at all; they were set to breaking stones, and were sent to Lord Blantyre's, and so on.

1325. Did you find a considerable proportion of Irish among those?—Those were all Irish but five.

1326. Do you consider that the greater number of those would be affected by the resolution of the Relief Committee, which denied relief to single men of 16 years of age and upwards working in the quarry?—I asked that question, and I asked an individual to bring me an account of that, but he did not do it; my impression is that those 170 were principally married men with families.

1327. You stated that your impression was, that the resolutions of the committee relating to single men of 16 years of age, and single men under 40 years of age, had affected the Irish very severely?—Yes; but when I stated that, I did not mean to bring those 175 labourers under that; there were those directly struck off, then those who had been one year upon the supply, then no new case taken on; all single men and women had been discarded, and then the labourers; I bring in that particular class of labourers; I consider them a distinct class of 170 or 175.

1328. Upon re-considering the subject, you do not think that the resolution of the committee affecting single men under 40, and affecting young men above 16 years of age, would affect the Irish more than the Scotch?—The labourers were those where the Irish were affected more than the Scotch; a few of this particular class who formed themselves into a body and applied as a body to the Relief Fund, but were refused by the committee, those were the out-door labourers; as to the single men and single women, I never knew that they had arranged themselves in the same way as a body.

1329. Setting aside the class of persons coming under the description of single

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single men, you would consider that a great proportion of the labourers would be Irish?—Yes, I should think a great portion of them would be.

1330. Did you not state that a great number of the Irish had been labourers upon railways and other works, which would prevent so large a number being applicants to the fund?—I consider that I have about 5,000 in my congregation; my impression would have been at first that probably from 1,500 to 2,000 of those might have been receiving relief, but on investigation I found that the number was not nearly that which I anticipated, and I can account for that only by the fact that a number who had gone round the country and obtained work would send their earnings to their families in the town.

1331. You do not consider that among the out-door labourers there would be a greater proportion of Irish than of Scotch?—I think there would be, for the greater portion of the labourers about Paisley are Irish.

1332. Therefore you think those resolutions would affect them in a great degree?—Yes.

1333. Mr. *Manners Sutton.*] How many resolutions have been passed striking off classes?—They first struck off the non-residents; then those that had been one year on the list; then no new case to be taken on; then the single men and single women; I have in my view, particularly in regard to the women, those who had been working in the town; then I take the labourers, this body of out-door labourers.

1334. The sixth is the one which applies to the Irish who had not been resident 10 years?—I took that the first.

1335. With respect to those resolutions of the committee, with the exception of that which struck off the Irish who had not been in Paisley 10 years, all the rest of the resolutions applied generally without distinction of country or creed?—Yes; but they affected particularly the labouring men, who were principally Irish.

1336. You state that all these resolutions together, you think, affected about 500 Irish?—I will not say, but they may have affected more; I have not taken any statistical account of the number, but I think they affected at least that number.

1337. Have you any idea of the number of other persons, not Irish, who were affected by those resolutions?—I have not; I have not been a member of the committee; I was named at first, when the ministers were put on, but knowing I was going out, I did not attend, and when I came back after six months' absence, none of the clergy were on the committee, and I did not take any part until lately that there was a meeting of ministers.

1338. Have you any reason to believe that any resolutions, except the last, were pointed particularly at the Irish?—No, I never thought so, but they might have been occasioned from their thinking they would cut off a much larger number of the Irish, and in particular marking out those who had not resided 10 years; I did not entertain any feeling till they came out with that resolution.

1339. Do you now entertain the idea that all the previous resolutions were intended to apply to the Irish?—I will not say that.

1340. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You have stated, that to the best of your belief the Irish forming your congregation in Paisley amount to 5,000?—Yes.

1341. Are you aware that by the census of Paisley, of the 6th of June 1841, the total number of Irish in Paisley are stated to be 5,124?—Yes.

1342. If it has been stated to the Committee that out of twelve male heads of Irish families struck off by the resolution of the 6th of January, ten of those heads of families were Protestants, thus showing a very large proportion; would it not appear to you that you have rather over-stated the number of Irish belonging to your congregation?—I will mention how I test the statement; I know the number of baptisms in Paisley within the year were 219, and allowing 25 for each baptism, then in the other two divisions of my congregation, comparing the respective numbers in the Barrhead district, I find 3,300 persons, and in the Houston district I think 1,200; when I take the baptisms of those two places, I find I have many more baptisms in Paisley than in both those two places put together.

1343. *Chairman.*] Have many Irish come into Paisley since the commencement of the present distress?—Very few to my knowledge; I have not been able to find any out; I tried to ascertain the fact, and I do not find that any family has come into the town, knowing of relief being given out, for the purpose

of

of participating in it; I cannot say positively that none have come, but at all events they have been much fewer than might have been supposed.

1344. You have stated that to your belief, a good many of your congregation who are Irish have left Paisley since the commencement of the distress?—A good many, I am sure of that; persons I was very well acquainted with.

1345. And in the various ways to which you have alluded?—Yes.

1346. Have those persons to whom you allude as having left Paisley left their families in Paisley, or have they taken their families with them?—Some have taken them, and some have left them; some have sent for them, and some I am afraid will be in the course of coming back, not finding any employment in America; those who left their families went with the intention to remit money to their families as soon as they could do so; many have gone to Glasgow; some to Greenock; some have gone to Ireland.

1347. You stated you had found the Irish have pressed more slightly on the Relief Fund than you expected; has that been occasioned by the circumstances you have mentioned?—Yes.

1348. What feeling has been entertained by yourself and others as to the treatment of the Irish at Paisley up to the present time?—There was no difference of opinion, that I am aware of, up to the time of the late resolution of the Committee; they were receiving relief the same as other inhabitants of Paisley.

1349. Were you instructed to apply the money intrusted to your care to any particular class?—No; my desire was to bring on those whom I saw in distress to the spring of the year; I could have no idea of being able to continue the relief.

1350. Was it under your discretionary power you saw it to be your duty to relieve persons of every persuasion, who were in any way destitute?—The reason I did it was, that some Protestant gentlemen who had seen and heard of the resolution, sent me some money when I had made an appeal, in consequence of the Irish being struck off the list; and I considered it my duty not to make any exception of persons coming under the class for whom I appealed.

1351. Can you state to the Committee what sum has been distributed by you in relief of the 1,500 persons to whom you mentioned that you had doled out charity?—The sum spent before I left home was about 200*l.*, and I left 30*l.* to be distributed this week to those needing relief in the same manner.

1352. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You would consider that amongst the distressed parties in Paisley, the Irish were to the full as much distressed as those of any other nation?—I should think fully, and in worse circumstances than the rest of the population.

1353. Were any of the Irish brought to Paisley by inducements held out by the manufacturers?—Not any of them, I think, of late; but I am told they were formerly.

1354. Have you any knowledge of any advertisements for labour in Paisley?—In the railway, I believe, there have been; but not in the manufactures, of late.

1355. Do you consider that of the 500 Irish with whom you have been best acquainted, a large proportion have been resident at Paisley a number of years?—Yes; six years and upwards, and many of them 20 or 30 years.

1356. A large proportion of those 500 would not suffer from the effect of the last resolution?—Yes; there were many to whom it did not apply; I did not take any into account who had not been three years, because I considered that if they had not been three years, they ought not to remain in Paisley; I offered to those who had not been three years in Paisley to send them home; for I saw no prospect of their ever acquiring an industrial residence.

1357. During the last three or four years, you think the tendency has not been to immigrate into Paisley, but rather to emigrate from it?—Exactly so.

1358. *Chairman.*] You stated that, to the best of your knowledge, the Irish have not been reinstated on the Relief Fund?—They have not.

1359. Nor has the rule been relaxed, so as to permit any others to come on the Relief Fund?—Not to my knowledge.

1360. With reference to the distress which has existed from June 1841 up to the present time, can you inform the Committee, from your own observation, whether the distress is equal at this time to what it was at this time last year, by comparison?—In my opinion, the distress at present existing is worse than it was at this time twelvemonth; I judge of that in this way, by my visits to their houses,

Rev. *John Bremner*, D.D.

6 March 1843.

houses, where I have witnessed their destitution, and saw that they had pawned every thing they had, in order to procure subsistence; by the falling off of the seat-rents in the chapel; by the dress and appearance of the people, and by the income of my school; in short, every thing convinces me that it has been going on from bad to worse; they talk of a revival of trade; I believe that is true of the better kind of weaving; I hope it will go on progressing, but it has not shown itself at present among the multitude of those that needed work at Paisley. There is one weaver of my own congregation, who has been 42 years in the employment; I called upon him and asked him what he was doing; he had got work, but working from seven in the morning till ten or half-past ten at night, he could not earn more than 5*s.* a week; he is a hand-loom, harness weaver, and had been idle for 19 weeks.

1361. Is the person of whom you are speaking a first-rate weaver?—I believe he is.

1362. Is he employed in the fine work for which Paisley is so famous?—They talk of some fine webs I have not seen; I know that some are making more than that; but I believe the generality of those employed as weavers are not making great wages

1363. Mr. *Colquhoun.*] You consider that even the higher class of weavers are not making greatly above 5*s.*?—I cannot say that, for I am told some are getting into fine work, but that fine work has not as yet produced any effect on the comforts of the great mass of the people.

1364. You adhere to the opinion that, as far as you are able to judge, the situation of Paisley is not better than it was this time twelvemonth?—I adhere to the opinion that it is not.

1365. Mr. *Acland.*] Are you aware of any communication from the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London, that the funds sent by them to Paisley should be distributed without distinction of nation?—I am aware that such communication was made by them, and I gave public notice that such communication had been received, and sent different individuals for the purpose of their being taken back again upon the Relief Fund, but they were refused.

1366. Were the cases you sent to the Relief Committee at Paisley amongst the most distressed you knew of, or did you send persons promiscuously?—I just took a number of those that had been put off the list, as having been ten years resident, and whom I knew to be in distress.

1367. *Chairman.*] When was that communication received in Paisley?—I heard of it about Friday se'nnight.

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Appendix, No. 1.

| | £. s. d. | £. s. d. |
|---|---|---|
| 1.—First Period. From 10th June 1841 to 9th May 1842. | | |
| London Private Committee from gentlemen connected with Paisley | 4,914 – 6 | |
| Edinburgh | 2,410 – – | |
| Glasgow | 1,296 5 – | |
| Calcutta, Madras and Bombay | 1,490 7 1 | |
| Greenock | 659 2 6 | |
| Ireland Tandragee | 500 – – | |
| Paisley Contributions | 1,227 14 8 | |
| Contributions in various parts of Scotland per Clergy of Paisley | 4,670 – – | |
| Various quarters | 6,792 12 9½ | |
| County of Renfrew | 2,391 10 3 | |
| £. | 26,351 12 9½ | |
| County of Renfrew | 592 17 7 | |
| Queen, and other patrons to Subscriptions | 325 – – | |
| £. | 27,269 10 4½ | |
| Deduct expended for Relief of Villages in the County | 1,477 16 3 | |
| £. | 25,791 14 1½ | |
| In addition to the above sums, there was likewise collected, principally in the town of Paisley and County of Renfrew, the following sums, and expended in Paisley and the villages of the county generally: | | |
| Agricultural Labour Fund £. 380 16 – | | |
| Emigration Fund 177 – – | | |
| Subscription of 9,360 *l.* by a Weaving Association, of which there has been paid, and which forms a total loss 1,371 16 – | | |
| £. 1,929 12 – | | |
| Say one-half of the above sum for Paisley | 964 16 – | |
| | | 26,756 10 1½ |
| 2.—Second Period. From 9th May 1842 to 15th June 1842, under the Management of Messrs. Twisleton and Ramsay. | | |
| London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, under the management of Messrs. Twisleton and Ramsey | – – – | 3,710 – – |
| 3.—Third Period. From 15 June 1842 to 7 February 1843, after Messrs. Twisleton and Ramsay had given up the Management. | | |
| London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, besides 200 *l.* to purchase clothes | 11,171 2 6 | |
| General Assembly's Committee, Edinburgh | 399 10 – | |
| County of Renfrew, from voluntary assessment, besides a grant of 200 *l.* not yet paid | 1,202 1 7 | |
| Renfrewshire Villages Fund, on account of Elderslie, the unemployed in that village being included with those in the town of Paisley | 30 – – | |
| Subscriptions, London £. 52 2 – | | |
| „ other parts in England 35 – – | | |
| „ Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company 71 11 8 | | |
| „ Edinburgh 13 10 – | | |
| „ Glasgow 26 – – | | |
| „ County of Renfrew 24 10 – | | |
| „ Town of Paisley 748 8 4 | | |
| „ other parts of Scotland 26 6 9 | | |
| „ New York 200 – – | | |
| „ Canada 4 3 6 | | |
| „ India 38 – – | | |
| „ France 52 5 9 | | |
| | 1,291 18 – | |
| | | 14,094 12 1 |
| Agricultural Labour Fund, instituted in December 1842 | – – – | 578 – – |
| Weaving Fund, instituted in January 1843 | – – – | 386 – – |
| | £. | 45,525 2 2½ |

Appendix, No. 1.

II.—Account Current, Treasurer *Andrew Warnock*, with the Unemployed Operative Relief Committee, from 10 June 1841 till 30 June 1842.

| CHARGE. | Folio. | | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To London Committee for Contributions - - - - | 14 | - - - | 4,914 | – | 6 |
| To Edinburgh - ditto - ditto - - - - | 18 | - - - | 2,410 | – | – |
| To Glasgow - ditto - ditto - - - - | 22 | - - - | 1,296 | 5 | – |
| To Calcutta, Madras and Bombay - ditto - - - | 28 | - - - | 1,490 | 7 | 1 |
| To Greenock Committee for Contributions - - - | 26 | - - - | 659 | 2 | 6 |
| To County of Renfrew - ditto - - - - | 36 | - - - | 2,391 | 10 | 3 |
| To Tandragee Committee - ditto - - - - | 38 | - - - | 500 | – | – |
| To Clergymen's ditto - ditto - - - - | 133 | - - - | 4,670 | – | – |
| To Paisley Subscriptions, &c., &c. - - - Paisley - £. 1,227 14 8 / Various quarters 6,792 12 9½ | 144 | - - - | 8,020 | 7 | 5½ |
| | | £. | 26,351 | 12 | 9½ |

| DISCHARGE. | Folio. | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| By Grocers and other Dealers in Provisions Accounts - | 42 | - | - | - | 14,211 | 1 | 11½ |
| By Clothing Accounts - - - - - - - - | 51 | - | - | - | 956 | – | – |
| By Stores Account - - - - - - - - | 53 | - | - | - | 62 | 6 | 6 |
| By Manufacturing Committee - - - - - | 55 | - | - | - | 275 | – | – |
| By County Labour - ditto - - - - - - | 59 | - | - | - | 445 | – | – |
| By Out-door - ditto - ditto - - - - - - | 60 | - | - | - | 311 | 17 | 3 |
| By Kilbarchan Relief - ditto - - - - - | 63 | 455 | 12 | – | | | |
| By Remuneration for Services - - - - - | 65 | - | - | - | 86 | 6 | – |
| By Johnston Relief Committee - - - - - | 67 | 602 | 5 | 2 | | | |
| By Bridge of Weir Relief - ditto - - - - | 71 | 167 | 19 | 1 | | | |
| By Money Distribution - - - - - - - | 73 | - | - | - | 105 | 12 | 1½ |
| By Barrhead and Neilston Relief Committee - - - | 75 | 145 | – | – | | | |
| By Emigration Committee - - - - - - | 77 | - | - | - | 140 | 6 | 8½ |
| By Pollockshaws Relief Committee - - - - - | 79 | 85 | – | – | | | |
| By Elderslie Relief Committee - - - - - | 83 | 22 | – | – | | | |
| | | | | | 1,477 | 16 | 3 |
| By Coal Distribution - - - - - - - - | 91 | - | - | - | 199 | 15 | 3 |
| By Soup Kitchens - - - - - - - - - | 106 | - | - | - | 3,959 | 2 | 4 |
| By Catholic Congregation - - - - - - | 113 | - | - | - | 50 | – | – |
| By Printing and Stationery - - - - - - | 116 | - | - | - | 325 | – | 6 |
| By Deputations to London, &c. - - - - - | 117 | - | - | - | 81 | 12 | 8 |
| By Destitute Cases and Incidents - - - - - | 121 | - | - | - | 115 | 17 | 2 |
| By Wages to Clerks and Visitors - - - - - | 125 | - | - | - | 401 | 6 | – |
| By Clergymens' Committee - - - - - - | 133 | - | - | - | 3,120 | – | – |
| By Balance, being Cash on hand - - - - - | - - | - | - | - | 27 | 12 | 1 |
| | | | £. | | 26,351 | 12 | 9½ |

Paisley, 17 February 1843.

*Tho. Henderson*, Accountant.

III.—ABSTRACT

Appendix, No. 1.

III.—ABSTRACT STATEMENT of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Paisley Relief Committee, from 20th June 1842, when Mr. *Twisleton*'s Management ceased, till 7th February 1843.

| RECEIPTS. | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, besides 200 *l.* to purchase Clothes | - | - | - | 11,171 | 2 | 6 |
| General Assembly's Committee, Edinburgh | - | - | - | 399 | 10 | – |
| County of Renfrew, from voluntry assessment | - | - | - | 1,202 | 1 | 7 |
| Renfrewshire Villages Fund, on account of Elderslie, the unemployed in that village being paid along with those in the town of Paisley | - | - | - | 30 | – | – |
| Subscriptions, London | 52 | 2 | – | | | |
| „ Other parts in England | 35 | – | – | | | |
| „ Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company | 71 | 11 | 8 | | | |
| „ Edinburgh | 13 | 10 | – | | | |
| „ Glasgow | 26 | – | – | | | |
| „ County of Renfrew | 24 | 10 | – | | | |
| „ Town of Paisley | 748 | 8 | 4 | | | |
| „ Other parts of Scotland | 26 | 6 | 9 | | | |
| „ New York | 200 | – | – | | | |
| „ Canada | 4 | 3 | 6 | | | |
| „ India | 38 | – | – | | | |
| „ France | 52 | 5 | 9 | | | |
| | | | | 1,291 | 18 | – |
| | | | | 14,094 | 12 | 1 |
| Balance, being Amount of Debt | - | - | - | 505 | 10 | 11 |
| | | | £. | 14,600 | 3 | – |

| DISBURSEMENTS. | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bread contracts | 3,037 | – | 8½ | | | |
| Meal - ditto | 7,148 | 8 | 2 | | | |
| Money allowances | 1,513 | 7 | 10½ | | | |
| Potato contracts | 339 | 7 | 4 | | | |
| Coal - ditto | 434 | 5 | 3 | | | |
| Allowances to invalids | 67 | 1 | 4 | | | |
| Wages to visitors and superintendents | 425 | 1 | 10 | | | |
| Wages to storekeepers | 132 | 7 | – | | | |
| Miscellaneous charges, stationery, advertising, store, rents, &c. | 268 | 7 | – | | | |
| Whin-stones, as material for breaking into road metal | 253 | 11 | 8 | | | |
| Implements, and repairing implements | 149 | 6 | – | | | |
| | | | | 13,768 | 4 | 2 |
| Soup Kitchens. | | | | | | |
| Soup contract for kitchen in Lady-lane | 316 | 8 | 10 | | | |
| Bread ditto | 248 | 12 | 4 | | | |
| Beef for kitchen in Dyer's-wynd | 90 | 2 | 6 | | | |
| Barley, pease and salt | 91 | 18 | 7 | | | |
| Vegetables | 24 | 10 | 3 | | | |
| Wages | 36 | 7 | – | | | |
| Coals | 8 | 10 | 9 | | | |
| Fitting up soup kitchens, and rent | 15 | 8 | 7 | | | |
| | | | | 831 | 18 | 10 |
| | | | £. | 14,600 | 3 | – |

IV.—TABLE, showing the Weekly Receipts and Disbursements of the Paisley Relief Committee, from 20th June 1842, when Mr. *Twisleton's* Management ceased, to the 7th February 1843; along with the Number receiving Relief, Rate of Weekly Allowance, and Price of Provisions for the Town of Paisley.

| Weeks ending. | Receipts. | Disbursements. | Cash on Hand. | Debt. | Number receiving Relief. | Rate of Weekly Allowances. | | | | | | | | | Price of Provisions at Store. | | | | | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Single Man. | Man and Wife. | and 1 Child. | and 2 Children. | and 3 Children. | and 4 Children. | and 5 Children. | and 6 Children. | and 7, and all above. | Bread per lb. | Oatmeal per stone of 14lbs. | Pease-meal per stone of 14lbs. | Potatoes per stone of 14lbs. | Coals per cwt. | |
| | £. s. d. | £. s. d. | £. s. d. | £. s. d. | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | d. | s. d. | s. d. | d. | d. | |
| From 20th June 1842 to 13 July 1842 - - | 2,443 9 – | 2,187 17 0½ | 255 11 11½ | - - - | 9,654 | 2 6 | 3 6 | 4 – | 4 6 | 5 – | 5 6 | 6 – | 6 6 | 7 – | 1½ | 1 10 | 1 10 | – | 3½ | |
| Week ending— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 July 1842 - | 582 8 2 | 767 5 9 | 70 14 4½ | - - - | 9,942 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 26 „ - | 499 13 6 | 450 5 3½ | 120 2 7 | - - - | 9,833 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 2 Aug. - | 649 10 – | 754 – 8 | 15 11 11 | - - - | 9,955 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1½ | 1 8 | 1 8 | – | 3½ | |
| 9 „ - | 470 – – | 559 13 9½ | - - - | 74 1 10½ | 10,174 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 16 „ - | 450 – – | 565 6 9½ | - - - | 189 8 8 | 9,685 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 23 „ - | 450 – – | 519 5 7 | - - - | 258 14 3 | 9,220 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 30 „ - | 450 – – | 411 9 8 | - - - | 220 3 11 | 8,349 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 6 Sept. - | 450 – – | 364 8 11 | - - - | 134 12 10 | 7,688 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1½ | 1 6 | 1 6 | – | 3½ | |
| 13 „ - | 406 1 9 | 395 18 6 | - - - | 124 9 7 | 6,895 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 20 „ - | 300 – – | 328 15 2 | - - - | 153 4 9 | 6,412 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 27 „ - | 250 – – | 368 7 1 | - - - | 271 11 10 | 6,129 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1½ | 1 8 | 1 8 | 3 | 3½ | |
| 4 Oct. - | 300 – – | 243 12 5 | - - - | 215 4 3 | 5,989 | 2 – | 2 10 | 3 3 | 3 8 | 4 – | 4 5 | 4 10 | 5 3 | 5 8 | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 11 „ - | 310 – – | 275 1 – | - - - | 180 5 3 | 6,069 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1¼ | 1 6 | 1 6 | 3 | 3½ | |
| 18 „ - | 500 – – | 294 12 5 | 25 2 4 | - - - | 6,538 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 25 „ - | 425 10 – | 318 6 4 | 132 6 – | - - - | 6,499 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 1 Nov. - | 320 8 – | 301 5 6 | 151 8 6 | - - - | 7,022 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 8 „ - | 240 4 – | 333 8 3 | 58 4 3 | - - - | 7,372 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 15 „ - | 209 4 – | 401 9 3 | - - - | 134 1 – | 8,025 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1¼ | 1 4 | – | 3 | 3½ | |
| 22 „ - | 205 4 – | 406 14 9 | - - - | 335 11 9 | 8,626 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 29 „ - | 315 – – | 418 2 4 | - - - | 438 14 1 | 9,560 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 6 Dec. - | 206 4 – | 519 7 11 | - - - | 751 18 – | 10,406 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 13 „ - | 239 – – | 479 14 1 | - - - | 992 12 1 | 11,183 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 20 „ - | 485 3 6 | 501 – 2 | - - - | 1008 8 9 | 11,804 | 1 8 | 2 3 | 2 7 | 2 11 | 3 3 | 3 6½ | 3 10½ | 4 2½ | 4 7 | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 27 „ - | 537 – – | 409 7 10½ | - - - | 880 16 7½ | 11,885 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 3 Jan. 1843 - | 473 12 11 | 424 7 11 | - - - | 831 11 7½ | 11,776 | 1 6 | 2 – | 2 3 | 2 7 | 2 10 | 3 1 | 3 5 | 3 8 | 4 – | 1⅛ | 1 4 | – | 2½ | 3½ | |
| 10 „ - | 691 2 6 | 359 1 11 | - - - | 499 11 –½ | 10,910 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 17 „ - | 379 9 – | 338 4 9½ | - - - | 458 6 10 | 10,236 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | no labour. |
| 24 „ - | 244 – – | 334 10 11½ | - - - | 548 17 9½ | 9,678 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 31 „ - | 377 7 9 | 291 16 8 | - - - | 403 6 8½ | 8,885 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| 7 Feb. - | 235 – – | 277 4 2½ | - - - | 505 10 11 | 8,031 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| £. | 14,094 12 1 | 14,600 3 – | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

V.—STATEMENT of the Periodical Numbers on the Paisley Relief Fund from 7th July 1841 till 7th February 1843. Appendix, No. 1.

| Date. | No. |
|---|---|
| Fortnightly. | |
| 1841: | |
| July 7 | 2,180 |
| „ 21 | 2,575 |
| Aug. 4 | 2,473 |
| „ 18 | 2,099 |
| Sept. 1 | 2,070 |
| „ 15 | 2,036 |
| „ 29 | 2,450 |
| Oct. 13 | 4,156 |
| Weekly. | |
| Oct. 23 | 5,400 |
| „ 30 | 6,266 |
| Nov. 6 | 7,884 |
| „ 13 | 8,841 |
| „ 20 | 9,701 |
| „ 27 | 10,651 |
| Dec. 4 | 11,450 |
| „ 11 | 11,477 |
| „ 18 | 11,610 |
| „ 25 | 11,567 |
| „ 31 | 12,180 |
| 1842: | |
| Jan. 7 | 12,703 |
| „ 14 | 13,445 |
| „ 21 | 14,160 |
| „ 28 | 14,657 |
| Feb. 4 | 14,771 |
| „ 11 | 14,791 |
| „ 18 | 14,273 |
| „ 25 | 14,138 |
| Mar. 5 | 13,568 |
| „ 12 | 13,072 |
| „ 19 | 12,817 |
| „ 26 | 11,995 |
| April 2 | 11,197 |
| „ 9 | 10,707 |
| „ 15 | 10,316 |
| „ 22 | 10,390 |
| „ 29 | 10,210 |
| May 5 | 10,032 |

| Date. | No. |
|---|---|
| Weekly. | |
| 1842: | |
| May 13 | 10,608 |
| „ 20 | 10,581 |
| „ 27 | 10,223 |
| June 3 | 10,417 |
| „ 11 | 10,105 |
| „ 18 | 8,050 |
| „ 25 | 8,641 |
| July 2 | 8,752 |
| „ 9 | 9,654 |
| „ 19 | 9,942 |
| „ 26 | 9,833 |
| Aug. 2 | 9,955 |
| „ 9 | 10,174 |
| „ 16 | 9,685 |
| „ 23 | 9,220 |
| „ 30 | 8,349 |
| Sept. 6 | 7,688 |
| „ 13 | 6,895 |
| „ 20 | 6,412 |
| „ 27 | 6,129 |
| Oct. 4 | 5,989 |
| „ 11 | 6,069 |
| „ 18 | 6,538 |
| „ 25 | 6,499 |
| Nov. 1 | 7,022 |
| „ 8 | 7,372 |
| „ 15 | 8,025 |
| „ 22 | 8,626 |
| „ 29 | 9,560 |
| Dec. 6 | 10,406 |
| „ 13 | 11,183 |
| „ 20 | 11,804 |
| „ 27 | 11,885 |
| 1843: | |
| Jan. 3 | 11,776 |
| „ 10 | 10,910 |
| „ 17 | 10,236 |
| „ 24 | 9,678 |
| „ 31 | 8,885 |
| Feb. 7 | 8,031 |
| „ 14 | 6,332 |

VI.—SCALES of Allowances to the Unemployed of Paisley, for different Periods, from the Commencement of the Distress in June 1841 till the present Time, February 1843.

## MALES.

From 7 July 1841 till 17 November.

| | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|
| Single men | 2 | – |
| Man and wife | 3 | – |
| Ditto and 1 child | 3 | 6 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 4 | – |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 4 | 6 |
| Man and wife and 4 children | 5 | – |
| Ditto and 5 ditto | 5 | 6 |
| Ditto and 6 ditto | 6 | – |
| Ditto and 7 ditto | 6 | 6 |
| Ditto and 8 ditto | 7 | – |

Appendix, No. 1.

From 20 November 1841 till 22 January 1842.

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single men | 2 | 6 | Man and wife and 4 children | 5 | 6 |
| Man and wife | 3 | 6 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 6 | – |
| Ditto and 1 child | 4 | – | Ditto and 6 ditto | 6 | 6 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 4 | 6 | Ditto and 7 ditto | 7 | – |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 5 | – | Ditto and 8 ditto | 7 | 6 |

From 22 January till 7 May.

Labour Scale:

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single men | 3 | – | Man and wife and 5 children | 7 | – |
| Man and wife | 4 | – | Ditto and 6 ditto | 7 | 6 |
| Ditto and 1 child | 4 | 6 | Ditto and 7 ditto | 8 | – |
| Ditto and 2 children | 5 | 6 | Ditto and 8 ditto | 8 | 6 |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 6 | – | Ditto and 9 ditto | 9 | – |
| Ditto and 4 ditto | 6 | 6 | Ditto and 10 ditto | 9 | 6 |

From 7 May till 8 June.

Labour Scale for Ten Hours' Work:

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single men | 4 | – | Man and wife and 4 children | 7 | 6 |
| Man and wife | 5 | – | Ditto and 5 ditto | 8 | – |
| Ditto and 1 child | 5 | 6 | Ditto and 6 ditto | 8 | 6 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 6 | 6 | Ditto and 7 ditto | 9 | – |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 7 | – | Ditto and 8 ditto | 9 | 6 |

From 8 June till 29 June.

Labour Scale:

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single men | 3 | 6 | Man and wife and 1 child | 5 | 6 |
| Man and wife | 5 | – | Ditto and 2 children | 6 | – |

*** All above two children no higher than 6*s.*, but all young men above 16 years allowed to draw schedules.

From 6 July till 28 September.

Labour Scale:

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single men | 2 | 6 | Man and wife and 4 children | 5 | 6 |
| Man and wife | 3 | 6 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 6 | – |
| Ditto and 1 child | 4 | – | Ditto and 6 ditto | 6 | 6 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 4 | 6 | Ditto and 7 ditto | 7 | – |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 5 | – | | | |

From 5 October till 14 December.

Labour Scale:

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single men | 2 | – | Man and wife and 4 children | 4 | 5 |
| Man and wife | 2 | 10 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 4 | 10 |
| Ditto and 1 child | 3 | 3 | Ditto and 6 ditto | 5 | 3 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 3 | 8 | Ditto and 7 ditto | 5 | 8 |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 4 | – | | | |

From 21 December till 28 December.

No Labour:

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single men | 1 | 8 | Man and wife and 4 children | 3 | 6½ |
| Man and wife | 2 | 3 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 3 | 10½ |
| Ditto and 1 child | 2 | 7 | Ditto and 6 ditto | 4 | 2½ |
| Ditto and 2 children | 2 | 11 | Ditto and 7 ditto | 4 | 7 |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 3 | 3 | | | |

From 4 January 1843 till the present Date.

No Labour:

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single men | 1 | 6 | Man and wife and 4 children | 3 | 1 |
| Man and wife | 2 | – | Ditto and 5 ditto | 3 | 5 |
| Ditto and 1 child | 2 | 3 | Ditto and 6 ditto | 3 | 8 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 2 | 7 | Ditto and 7 ditto | 4 | – |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 2 | 10 | | | |

*William Burnside*, Clerk.

## FEMALE Allowances.

### First Scale of Payment for the Females.

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single women | 1 | 9 | Woman and 4 children | 3 | 9 |
| Woman and 1 child | 2 | 3 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 4 | 3 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 2 | 9 | Ditto and 6 ditto | 4 | 9 |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 3 | 3 | | | |

From 8th July 1842.

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single woman | 1 | 6 | Woman and 4 children | 3 | 6 |
| Woman and 1 child | 2 | – | Ditto and 5 ditto | 4 | – |
| Ditto and 2 children | 2 | 6 | Ditto and 6 ditto | 4 | 6 |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 3 | – | | | |

From 20th October 1842.

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single woman | 1 | 3 | Woman and 4 children | 2 | 10 |
| Woman and 1 child | 1 | 8 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 3 | 3 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 2 | – | Ditto and 6 ditto | 3 | 8 |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 2 | 5 | | | |

From 21st December 1842.

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single woman | 1 | – | Woman and 4 children | 2 | 4 |
| Woman and 1 child | 1 | 4 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 2 | 8 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 1 | 8 | Ditto and 6 ditto | 3 | – |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 2 | – | | | |

From 3d January 1843.

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single woman | – | 10½ | Woman and 4 children | 2 | – |
| Woman and 1 child | 1 | 2 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 2 | 3 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 1 | 5½ | Ditto and 6 ditto | 2 | 6 |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 1 | 9 | | | |

From 18th January 1843.

| | s. | d. | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single woman | 1 | – | Woman and 4 children | 2 | – |
| Woman and 1 child | 1 | 3 | Ditto and 5 ditto | 2 | 3 |
| Ditto and 2 children | 1 | 6 | Ditto and 6 ditto | 2 | 6 |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 1 | 9 | | | |

On the 20th September 1842, a soup kitchen was erected, where a number of female recipients were supplied with soup, in place of store provisions, at the following rate:—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Single woman | 1 quart of soup | and | –½*d.* | of bread. |
| Woman and 1 child | 2 ditto | and | 1*d.* | ditto. |
| Ditto and 2 children | 2 ditto | and | 1*d.* | ditto. |
| Ditto and 3 ditto | 3 ditto | and | 1½*d.* | ditto. |
| Ditto and 4 ditto | 3 ditto | and | 1½*d.* | ditto. |
| Ditto and 5 ditto | 4 ditto | and | 2*d.* | ditto. |
| Ditto and 6 ditto | 4 ditto | and | 2*d.* | ditto. |

Each quart of soup and bread valued at 1½*d.*, and an allowance of 2½*d.* in money on Saturday for each quart of soup, being 11½*d.* per week.

Paisley, 18 February 1843. *J. Parkhill*, Clerk.

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VII.—RETURN of the Numbers struck off the Paisley Relief List, in terms of Resolution of Paisley Relief Committee of date 6th January 1843, for being more than Twelve Months on the Roll.

Numbers struck off; viz.—

| | |
|---|---|
| Heads of families | 81 |
| Dependents | 270 |
| Total | 351 |

The Dependents were put on the soup-roll.

Paisley, 18 February 1843.

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Appendix No. 1.

VIII.—STATEMENT of Natives of *Ireland* whose Residence within the Parliamentary Boundary of Paisley has been less than Ten Years, and who have been struck off the Relief List in consequence of the Resolution of the Paisley Relief Committee of 6th January 1843.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Male heads of families - - - - - | 12 | |
| Their wives - - - - - - - | 10 | |
| Dependents - - - - - - - | 30 | |
| | — | 52 |
| Female heads of families - - - - - | 59 | |
| Dependents - - - - - - - | 97 | |
| | — | 156 |
| Total - - - | | 208 |

Certified by,

Paisley, 14 February 1843. *John Parkhill*, Clerk.

IX.—RETURN of the Numbers struck off the Paisley Relief List for Imposition, subsequent to the Resolution of the Committee, on 23d September 1842.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number struck off - - - - - - - - - | 43 |
| Of whom convicted - - - - - - - - - | 5 |

Paisley, 18 February 1843.

## Appendix, No. 2.

Appendix, No. 2.

CORRESPONDENCE between the Paisley Relief Committee and the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee.

I.—LETTER: Paisley Relief Committee to Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Paisley, 13 June 1842.

Local Committee.

We beg to inform you that, on the nomination of Mr. Twisleton, the following persons were this day appointed as a Local Committee to correspond with the Manufacturing Relief Committee of London, regarding the administration of relief to the unemployed in the town of Paisley; viz.—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sheriff Campbell, | Bailie Paton, | Mr. William Sharp, |
| Provost Henderson, | Mr. Robert Farquharson, | Mr. Peter Jack, |
| Bailie Murray, | Mr. Robert Bisset, | Mr. William Lochhead, |
| Bailie Barr, | Mr. William Barr, | Mr. David Ritchie, |
| Bailie Smith, | Mr. Robert Cochran, | |

and that those fourteen persons have been requested to add six persons to their number, making in all a Committee of twenty. These six will be immediately appointed.

The Queries circulated by your Committee will be answered at the earliest opportunity.

Deputy Commissary Ramsay informs us that the sum required for the relief of the unemployed is about 500 *l.* per week, and it will be necessary that funds should be placed at the disposal of the Local Committee to meet the expenditure of the ensuing week, when their labours will commence.

We are, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.
*John Smith*, Bailie.

II.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to John Henderson, Esquire, Provost, Paisley.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,

Sir, London, 15th June 1842.

London Funds.

I am directed by this Committee to inform you, that a grant of 300 *l.* has been made for the relief of the distressed operatives at Paisley—to be placed at the disposal of the new Committee under the revised regulations—with an intimation that no further grant will be made until the queries are satisfactorily answered and returned.

The Committee observe with regret a statement that 500 *l.* per week will be needed for the relief of the poor at Paisley; and they cannot permit this intimation to pass without informing the Paisley Committee that they have no expectation that the funds at their disposal will enable them to grant continued assistance to that extent. It therefore behoves the

the local authorities, if they anticipate so heavy a demand upon them, to turn their attention forthwith to other sources of aid. Appendix, No. 2.

Please to acknowledge the receipt of the remittance by return of post.

I have, &c
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

P. S.—Since writing the above, the Committee have determined to refer the applications from Pollockshaws, Neilston, and Caldwell, to the consideration of your Committee, and to grant an additional sum of 150*l.* for the relief of those places, in such proportions as the several cases may require. The bank post will therefore be for 450*l.*, which is the amount remitted to you.

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III.—LETTER: Paisley Relief Committee to Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Paisley, 18th June 1842.

Plan of Operations.

THE newly-constituted Paisley Relief Committee have had before them your letter of the 15th June current, addressed to John Henderson, esquire, informing him that a grant of 300*l.* had been made by the London Committee for the relief of the distressed operatives here, at the disposal of the new Paisley Committee under the "revised regulations," and that no further grant will be made until the "queries" are satisfactorily answered and returned.

These queries (laid before this committee at the same time) are herewith returned, with answers, so far as it is possible for the committee to give, in the present state of information within their reach.

Your letter further states that the London Committee observe with regret a statement that 500*l.* per week will be needed for Paisley; and that they cannot permit this intimation to pass without informing the Paisley Committee that they have no expectation that the funds at their disposal will enable them to grant continued assistance to that extent, and suggesting that the local authorities here, if they anticipate so heavy a demand upon them, should turn their attention to other sources of aid.

We, who are appointed as the Committee of the new Paisley Board to manage the correspondence with the London Committee, have, in the first place, to acknowledge receipt of a draft for the 300*l.* above mentioned, and for the further amount of 150*l.* sent to be applied by the Paisley Committee for the relief of Pollockshaws, Neilston and Caldwell (Barrhead), and we shall apply these sums accordingly, reserving a portion for the large village of Johnstone and the villages of Kilbarchan and Bridge-of-Weir, which are not less needful of relief, if the London Committee shall be pleased to approve of our doing so. We would also mention that these villages have all local committees of their own, which acted in subordination to the *late* General Relief Committee of Paisley.

We have to request the attention of the London Committee to the peculiar situation in which we are placed.

The functions of the late General Relief Committee came to an end upon the 9th day of May last, owing to the complete exhaustion of their funds; and Government interposed its aid, in the manner you are aware of, to avert the frightful consequences of utter destitution of such a mass of helpless people, entirely dependent upon charitable supply. The funds of the late committee were not only exhausted, but debt had been incurred to a considerable amount, which that committee had then no means of paying.

Mr. Twisleton, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, and Mr. Deputy Commissary Ramsay, as agents for Government, have had charge of the supplies for the destitute of this town ever since the 9th of May; their necessary weekly expenditure for provisions alone, besides contingent expenses in wages to servants, implements, &c. (which may raise the estimate to near 600*l.* weekly), has not fallen short of 500*l.*; and we are grieved to add, that the state of manufacturing employment here has become more unfavourable during this week, so as to threaten a considerable addition to the destitute.

We, the new committee (of 20 persons, 14 of our number being nominated by Mr. Twisleton, and these electing the other six), were met to arrange ourselves into committees for stores, for revision of claims, for labour, for accounts, and for correspondence, when the contents of your letter caused the committee to hesitate in entering upon the duties which they were about to undertake; and we are desired to state most explicitly, that, except the London Committee, there is no source of supply whatever to which the authorities here, or this committee, can resort. Our local source of supply and every other source were completely exhausted before the functions of the late General Committee for Paisley and the neighbouring villages of the county came to an end.

It is, therefore, distinctly to be understood that the new committee will undertake no personal responsibility whatever in procuring the necessary supplies; and if, as seems to be intimated in your communication, the London Committee do not expect that the funds to be raised in consequence of the Queen's Letter will be such as to afford the extent of weekly supply which has been found necessary for this town, independent of the villages, the Paisley Committee cannot undertake to act. They can only do so upon the distinct assurance that weekly supplies are to be regularly advanced by the London Committee, and they do not see any probability that the requisite supplies for Paisley alone will, for a week at least to come, fall short of from 500*l.* to 600*l.*

The Paisley Committee, however, while averse to undertake a fearful responsibility, are desirous to give the most respectful attention to whatever arrangements may be suggested

Appendix, No. 2.

by the London Board, that will not involve them in pecuniary responsibility; and, in the mean time, awaiting an answer to this communication, the Paisley Committee have provisionally arranged themselves into committees as above mentioned, and are prepared to act upon the system adopted under the direction of Messrs. Twisleton and Ramsay, having paid visitors for scrutiny of claims under the superintendence of a revising committee, and administering relief from provision stores supplied by open contract.

The Paisley Committee are unanimous and anxious in recommending to the London Committee that Government agency should not be withdrawn from us in the present emergency, and they think that, for the sake of making the London Committee more fully aware of the peculiarly unfortunate condition of this town than can be done by correspondence, it might be very desirable that Mr. Ramsay should immediately proceed to London.

We are, &c.

(signed) *Alex. Campbell.*
*John Henderson.*
*David Murray.*

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IV.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Chairman of the Paisley Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
London, 18th June 1842.

Sir,

Supplies by Tender.

I AM directed by the committee to inform you, that it is their wish that all the supplies of provisions and articles required for the poor (at Paisley and elsewhere) shall be obtained by public advertisement, through the medium of sealed tenders, and to require that this course be adopted in all future transactions of the Local Committee.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

P. S.—An application from the village of the Bridge-of-Weir is referred to your committee for assistance.

(In$^{d}$) *W. H. H.*

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V.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Chairman of the Paisley Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
London, 22d June 1842.

Sir,

London Resolutions.

I AM directed by the committee to enclose and call your best attention to the Resolutions passed at their meeting of this day. A copy of the "Instructions to Local Committees" shall be forwarded as soon as lithographed.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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EXTRACTS from the MINUTES.—22 June 1842.

Funds.

RESOLVED, That 1,250 *l.* be transmitted to Mr. Twisleton, at Paisley, to defray the outstanding debts incurred for relief (according to the statements of himself and Mr. Deputy Commissary-General Ramsay), making the total amount of relief granted by the committee to Paisley, 3,710 *l.*, from the 25th of May to this day.

That the Relief Committee at Paisley be informed that the Manufacturers' Relief Committee think that they will not be warranted in granting more than 500 *l.* for the next week, and 250 *l.* per week for the three ensuing weeks; but beyond the three ensuing weeks from the 1st of July, the committee will not feel themselves justified (considering the inadequacy of the sum at their disposal, and the number and urgency of the applications made to this committee, from districts suffering extreme distress in England) in undertaking to grant further relief.

The committee further grant 100 *l.* for the following week, for distribution in the district comprised in the villages in the neighbourhood of Paisley; viz., Pollockshaws, Neilston and Caldwell, Bridge-of-Weir, Johnstone and Kilbarchan, &c.; and the committee will not feel themselves warranted in continuing this rate of aid for more than the three weeks from the 1st of July.

The committee will not be indisposed to receive and consider further applications from the town of Paisley, though they decline to be responsible after the period stated for aid.

That the Local Committee be reminded, in answer to the representation contained in their letter, that collections will on Sunday next be made in all the churches in Scotland, and that the proceeds of these collections will be placed at the disposal of a committee, to be appointed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: the Local Committee are therefore referred to the Committee of the General Assembly for further supply.

The Manufacturers' Relief Committee regret that the Local Committee at Paisley have given them no distinct and clear information respecting the amount of subscriptions raised in the town and neighbourhood, nor in the county, since the 1st of October, as distinguished from subscriptions which have been raised in other parts of Scotland, in England and in Ireland; nor does it appear that any exertions are at present put forth by the inhabitants at Paisley for the collection of local funds.

The

The Manufacturers' Relief Committee request that, before any further remittances are made to the Local Committee at Paisley, they will present the Manufacturers' Relief Committee with the above information, in a clear and precise form; and they take the liberty of suggesting, that no time should be lost in setting on foot a subscription in the town and neighbourhood of Paisley. Appendix, No. 2.

(Correct extracts.)

(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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VI.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Chairman of the Paisley Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
London, 25 June 1842.

Sir,

I HAVE the pleasure to remit to you the sum of 600 *l.*, in accordance with the "Resolution" of this board, passed on the 22d instant; 500 *l.* being for the special relief of Paisley, for one week from that date, and 100 *l.* for the relief of Pollockshaws, and the other villages in the neighbourhood, for one week also. Remittance.

Recommending your attention to the terms of the "Resolution" above referred to, and requesting your acknowledgment of the receipt of the grant,

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

P. S.—I have just received a complaint from Mr. Wallace, M. P., and Mr. Hector, that Pollockshaws has not received any relief from your committee.

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VII.—LETTER: John Henderson and David Murray, on behalf of the Paisley Relief Committee, to the Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir,

Paisley, 25 June 1842.

YOUR letter, dated the 22d current, was last night laid before a meeting of the Paisley Committee, by whose instructions we now write you. Prospects for relief.

From your letter it appears that 3,710 *l.* has been remitted by the London Committee to defray the expense incurred in supplying the destitute of this town, under the superintendence of Messrs. Twisleton and Ramsay. The period to which this expenditure applied was six weeks, commencing on Monday the 9th of May, and ending upon Sunday the 19th of June current. This expenditure gives an average of 618 *l.* 6 *s.* weekly for these six weeks; but this average will not be a correct index for the latter portion of that period, nor for the week now current, because the numbers admitted to relief have latterly increased, and because there has been omitted from the estimate the weekly cost of quarry stones, which the able-bodied of the men were employed to reduce into road metal, which is understood to amount to about 30 *l.* a week, and to have created a debt of about 100 *l.*; and we request that it be remembered that neither for the current week, nor for those which preceded it, have this committee had any management or responsibility.

It may, therefore, be taken for granted that the expense of the current week, ending to-morrow, will exceed the foregoing average of 618 *l.* 6 *s.* by more than 39 *l.* How much more we cannot yet say.

The sum that has been remitted to us to meet the expenditure of this week was 300 *l.*, and the defect for this week, for Paisley alone, will therefore be upwards of 350 *l.*

Looking forward to next week, commencing Monday the 27th current, the Paisley Committee find themselves in a position in which they have no option consistent with humanity or safety. Messrs. Twisleton and Ramsay have intimated that their management is at an end, and they are about to leave us. The expense of this week and the next necessarily remains as they leave it. The committee are therefore compelled either to assume the management on conditions to which they have not assented, or to hazard the peace of the town. They have therefore assumed the management, provisionally, for the ensuing week, and they have authorized sub-committees of their number to open the sealed tenders, and make contracts for supplying the necessary stores, and to transact other necessary business; but all this they do upon the credit and responsibility of the London Committee, who could not possibly have wished them to do otherwise.

Your letter intimates that the London Committee have resolved to send us 500 *l.*, and also further advances to the amount of 250 *l.* more weekly for the three first weeks of July, beyond which they promise nothing. These sums are understood by the committee as applicable to Paisley, for the four weeks commencing with Monday next the 27th current, and ending with Sunday the 24th July, making in all for these four weeks, 1,260 *l.* But if the expenditure for Paisley be at least 650 *l.* weekly, the amount for these four weeks will be 2,600 *l.*, showing a deficit of 1,350 *l.* And if to this deficit be added that of the current week, the total pecuniary responsibility imposed upon the Paisley Committee prior to the 24th July could not be less than 1,700 *l.*, to say nothing of the neighbouring villages, of which it is also proposed that the Paisley Committee should have charge.

To meet this evident deficiency of funds, the Paisley Committee are referred to the General Assembly's Committee, who have under their charge the contributions expected in Scotland, in virtue of the Queen's Letter, and to the procurement of further local contributions.

As to the General Assembly's collections, the Paisley Committee will endeavour to procure information; but they do not anticipate that these can be very large, for there is no church

Appendix, No. 2.

church nor congregation in Scotland, established or dissenting, which has not already been canvassed for relief of our distresses, and from most of them supplies have already been received.

As to raising further contributions in this locality, that seems hopeless: Paisley is exhausted. Even for a manufacturing town its labouring population is comparatively in excess, and its capitalists have been sorely reduced by the bankruptcies which took place a few months ago, in numbers and amount beyond all precedent. The owners of houses occupied by operative tradesmen can obtain little rent, and in a great number of cases none; and the poor's-rates have fallen more heavily on those who have been left able to pay them. Manufacturers have kept weavers in employ to preserve them from destitution, when it was their interest to dismiss them; and besides public contributions, private charity has been given in a variety of ways to an extent nearly as great as the public local subscriptions. In short, all classes of the community have, in one way or another, suffered in the distress which has come over the town.

Neither is there any likelihood of further subscriptions from the rest of the county. So many demands have already been made from this town and from the villages, and so many contributions given in money, provisions, and by creating work for the unemployed, that to the Paisley Committee it seems hopeless to expect more.

In these circumstances, it is felt to be of deep importance that there should be no chance of mistake on the part of the London Committee, as to the course which the Paisley Committee find it necessary to adopt; and we are, therefore, desired to state explicitly to you, that the Paisley Committee do not, and cannot, undertake the personal responsibility of providing for the destitute, upon the footing announced in your letter. They cannot rely upon contingencies for funds to such an amount. They cannot undertake the responsibility of either placing the destitute upon less than half the allowance at present given, or throwing off such a portion of their number as will bring the remainder within the reach of subsistence, from the sums appropriated by the London Committee. If any strong measure of retrenchment were deemed proper to be resorted to, it could have been attempted with much greater safety to the peace of the town by the official gentlemen who are about to leave us; and the committee desire to express their regret that these highly respectable persons, or at least one of them, should not have remained here for some time to come. The committee consider that their presence would have been conducive to the public good, and that their absence is unfortunate, while no definite management has been arranged. One benefit, however, may result: Mr. Twisleton will be able to explain to the London Committee, better than can be done by correspondence, the distressing peculiarities of our situation.

With regard to the villages of Pollockshaws, Johnston, Kilbarchan, Bridge-of-Weir, Neilston and Barrhead (*not* Caldwell), the committee will apply, as directed, the money sent or to be sent by the London Committee, the distribution being intrusted to local committees of their own.

Until some further arrangement has been made, the Paisley Committee will, for the ensuing week, and without undertaking any thing beyond it, endeavour to manage the stores for Paisley to the best advantage; to enforce a labour test, so far as work can be procured (and that is now a matter of difficulty), and to revise the Relief Lists, and check the continuance or accession of improper claimants; but the task of revision will be an arduous one, and require much labour.

We conclude by an anxious hope that the London Committee will see in this communication nothing but what the peculiar circumstances of their position render it imperative upon the Paisley Committee respectfully to lay before them. They are not reluctant to undertake the task of management, but they well know the great responsibility which it involves.

A distinct statement of the sums raised exclusively in the town of Paisley and county of Renfrew, for relief of the unemployed, accompanies this letter.

We have, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.
*David Murray*, Bailie.

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Wednesday, 29 June 1842.

Extract from the Minutes of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee.

London Resolutions.

By reference to the documents transmitted from Paisley, the Manufacturers' Relief Committee find that the Paisley Relief Committee have collected in the town of Paisley and in the county of Renfrew ; that 5,000*l.* in subscriptions have been received from England in the course of the past year, besides further sums from other parts of Scotland and from Ireland, for the relief of the local distress. The town of Paisley and county of Renfrew have, therefore, in the course of the last year contributed to this object; whereas they have, in the same period, received 5,000*l.* in voluntary subscriptions from England, and this committee have, in the course of the last month, transmitted to Paisley 4,210*l.* for the relief of the town.

Resolved, That while the Manufacturers' Relief Committee regard with lively sympathy the sufferings of the poorer classes of Paisley, they cannot refrain from expressing their regret that the contributions of the inhabitants should be not only inadequate to meet the evil, but disproportionate to the contributions from other places, and that the Local Committee should now seek to place the whole burthen of relieving the local distress on the fund collected in England.

The Manufacturers' Relief Committee likewise observe, that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland have appointed a committee for the distribution of the fund collected by the

the Queen's Letter in the churches of Scotland, and that no part of the fund so collected will be applicable to the relief of the extreme distress existing in England. Appendix, No. 2.

This committee are not aware that any measures have been taken by the authorities or Relief Committee of Paisley which afford a prospect of the permanent reduction of the local claims for relief; but this committee regret to observe that an effect is, on the contrary, made to cast on this committee the responsibility of providing for the unemployed population (without the proposal of any such measures) at the rate of 650*l.* per week.

The Manufacturers' Relief Committee regret that their resources are such as to compel them to repeat that they are unwilling to assume any such responsibility; but, on the other hand, they are cordially disposed to afford such assistance as may give the Paisley Committee time to devise measures for rendering the aid they may obtain from other sources equal to extent of relief which may be found indispensable.

The committee also repeat their recommendation that a new subscription be opened in the town of Paisley and other parts of Scotland, and that an application be made to the General Assembly of the Church; meanwhile this committee are anxious that the Paisley Relief Committee should suffer as little embarrassment as possible; and, to enable them to discharge the pressing claims made upon them for immediate relief, the Manufacturers' Relief Committee are ready to grant,

600*l.* in the week ensuing from this date;
500*l.* in the second week;
400*l.* in the third week; and
300*l.* in the fourth week from this period;

and the committee, therefore, substitute this aid for that granted in the previous week; but beyond this period this committee regret that, considering the amount of subscription at their disposal, and the extent of distress existing in England and elsewhere in Scotland, they have no prospect of affording further aid: moreover, the committee distinctly repeat that, though they would greatly regret to occasion any serious embarrassment to the Paisley Relief Committee, the Manufacturers' Relief Committee are not, and will not be, responsible for any advance made by the Paisley Committee beyond the above four weekly grants.

The sum of money confided to the disposal of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee does not enable them to assume any further responsibility, without, as they apprehend, depriving themselves of the power of aiding the exertions of the inhabitants of distressed districts in England, to raise means for the relief of extensive destitution, and to regulate the distribution of such funds by a vigilant superintendence and wise economy.

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VIII.—LETTER: John Henderson, Provost, David Murray, Bailie, and Alexander Campbell, Sheriff-Substitute, on behalf of the Paisley Relief Committee, to the Secretary of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Paisley, 7 July 1842.

On the part of the Paisley Committee, we have to acknowledge your communication of extract of the London Committee's minute of 29th of June, and feel grateful for the increased grants which it announces. Progress of Relief. Committee.

We acknowledge, also, that the reflections which it conveys are as natural for the London Committee to make, as it is for us to represent that the want of further contributions from Renfrewshire or Scotland, or the magnitude of the expenditure, is no fault of the Paisley Committee.

In the amount of our local contributions, however, noticed by the London Committee, is not included relief given in kind to our soup kitchens, nor given in work by our Manufacturing Association, nor received and expended under the management of our clergy, the aggregate of which is equal to all our other contributions put together.

With regard to the repeated recommendations that those of the inhabitants of Paisley, who are in business, should raise additional subscriptions amongst themselves for the unemployed, we are sorry to be obliged again to state that they are quite unable to do so, with such few exceptions, as would make the attempt altogether fruitless. Owing to the long-continued and wide-spread distress, a great deal of assistance has been given by people in business, to their neighbours and relatives, during the last twelve months. Trade, during that period, has been entirely paralysed, and, in place of being able to keep themselves, the greater portion of the manufacturers, shopkeepers, &c., have failed. Many of those who continue solvent are greatly embarrassed; and almost all of them are living on their stock, in place of the profits of their business. So much is this the case, that it has been found quite impossible to collect the various public local assessments of Paisley to such an amount as will meet the claims against them; and the consequence is, that the legal assessments for the police, prisons, and the ordinary poor, are all far in arrear; and such is the impoverished condition, in particular, of the funds for ordinary paupers, that yesterday they could not be paid their usual monthly allowance; and last night a heavy supplementary assessment upon those of the inhabitants who are able to pay was imposed for the support of the regular poor of the burgh.

We have further to state a most material circumstance in the position of our committee. They entered upon the management *conditionally*. For the first two weeks after Mr. Twisleton and Deputy-General Ramsay's relinquishment of the charge, the Paisley Committee had no control, and could not possibly have any, over the expenditure. If a reduction were expected to be made in the rates of allowance, or on the numbers which were found on the supply list, the committee had no time nor means to effect any such. They commenced

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commenced a careful revision of the lists, but that was a work of time and labour, and could have no immediate effect. We could not help,—we could only lament,—the multitude of destitute claimants. We have, however, made a reduction in the rates of allowance, but that came into operation only yesterday, and is now the subject of much and general excitement. Daily meetings are being held amongst the unemployed, and even threats are held out indicative of danger to the public peace. The committee itself is disunited, and several of its most active members have retired from the management in displeasure with the extent of the reduction.

Two deputations from public meetings came to a recent meeting of our committee to complain of what was termed the "cruelty" of driving the people to starvation, and of giving them nothing but bread and meal to subsist upon, thereby forcing them to dispose (as they were doing) of part of their scanty allowances to procure other necessaries for their families; viz., milk, soap, and such like. Both deputations (one of which was headed by a parish clergyman) told us, that it was the unanimous feeling of the public meetings, that the duty of humane and respectable men in our situation, as managers, was to give adequate allowances for sustaining life and health to the multitudes willing to work, but destitute of employment and of the means of subsistence by no fault of their own; and that if we had not such to give, and could not obtain it from Government or otherwise, then it was our duty at once to resign our management, so that neither magistrates nor committees should longer stand between the people and their right to help themselves in a land of plenty.

We hope the London Committee will have the goodness to place themselves in our situation, and consider what we can do—so pressed by an excited populace—so disunited among ourselves; and having at present to make good the expenditure of the two past weeks, in the contraction of which expenditure we had no option, responsibility, nor control.

That expenditure (now that we have got in the accounts for the fortnight) amounts to a larger sum than we were aware of, its amount being 1,586*l.* 12*s.* 1½*d.*; conform to statement herewith transmitted.

| To meet this, the London Committee have granted for— | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| The first week | 300 | – | – |
| The second week | 500 | – | – |
| Other funds not exceeding | 165 | 3 | – |
| | £.965 | 3 | – |

The Paisley Committee beg to represent most respectfully that they are not justly nor fairly responsible for this deficiency. On the contrary, it was merely the continuation of the amount of allowance sanctioned by Messrs. Twisleton and Ramsay, which the Paisley Committee could not possibly have reduced.

It cannot be expected that the Paisley Committee should take personal responsibility of such a debt; and to say that they *are* to be held responsible, is to put an end at once to their functions, at whatever hazard to the peace of the town.

Clergy.

We have received the London Committee's printed regulations on which they grant aid, and we observe it is provided by the *first* regulation, "that a Local Committee, consisting of the magistrates, *clergy* and principal inhabitants, be organized in every district applying for relief." We beg to be informed whether, under the regulation, it be understood that the Committee here previously organized by Mr. Twisleton is to be superseded by one to be formed as pointed out in the above regulation? If the present committee is not thereby superseded, are its remaining members to add new members to fill the place of those who have already resigned, or may yet do so? And, in particular, ought the clergy to form part of the committee? None of the clergy are in the present committee.

Kind of Relief.

We further observe that it is provided by the rule "*B.*,"—"that *one-half at least* of the relief shall be administered in *kind*." By this we understand that the other half may be given in *money*, or in such other way as the Local Committee may deem proper. This the committee here deem a very humane and judicious arrangement; for although they are by no means agreed on several matters, yet on this point they are *unanimously* of opinion (and that after long and attentive consideration) that in every point of view it is desirable that part at least of the relief afforded should be given in money; in fact, the committee look upon this as absolutely necessary; because it must be evident to every one, that those of the recipients who have families (and by far the greater proportion have) must obtain milk, soap, fire, salt, &c.; which necessaries no family can want; and moreover, although the most peremptory instructions were issued by the committee against selling or bartering any of the provisions received from the stores, yet it is well known, and is even avowed by the recipients themselves, that in many cases they have been forced to dispose of part of these provisions in order to obtain some of those other necessaries mentioned above.

We have to conclude by entreating that the London Committee will relieve the Local Committee of the whole amount of debt necessarily imposed upon them during the first two weeks after they had conditionally agreed to take the management; and that the London Committee will also give attention to their other requests as early as possible.

We are, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.
*David Murray*, Bailie.
*Alex. Campbell*, Sheriff-Sub.

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IX.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Chairman of the Paisley Committee. Appendix, No. 2.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
London, 11 July 1842.

Sir,

I HAVE the pleasure to enclose a bank post bill for 621 *l.* 9 *s.*, being the amount of a grant to the Paisley Committee made by this board in consequence of the statement of expenditure contained in your communication of the 7th instant. Remittance.

I beg, at the same time, to inform you that the copy of a resolution passed at this morning's meeting will also be forwarded by this post.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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X.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Chairman of Paisley Local Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
London, 11 July 1842.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that this post will bring you a bank post for 621 *l.* 9 *s.*, to defray expenditures stated in your communication of the 7th instant; and, at the same time, to call the best attention of the Paisley Committee to the accompanying resolution which was passed by the Manufacturers' Relief Committee at this morning's meeting. Remittance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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MANUFACTURERS' RELIEF COMMITTEE, 11 July 1842.

THE Manufacturers' Relief Committee are deeply sensible of the great embarrassment which must be experienced by the Paisley Relief Committee in attempting to collect local subscriptions, and in regulating the distribution of relief in a committee, the members of which are described to be "*disunited in opinion*," though acting in the midst of an excited people, who urge them to relinquish their duties, and thus to share with the populace the guilt of the disorganization of society, and of the plunder which would ensue. Resolutions.

The duty of providing for the maintenance of the poor in periods of prolonged commercial embarrassment falls in the first place on the *locality*; and in England the claim of rates for the relief of the poor legally precedes the claim for *rent*—does at all times anticipate the rent to a considerable extent—and in seasons of great distress is doubled or even trebled.

The Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee perceive that the entire contributions of the town of Paisley are not equal to the sum ordinarily paid for the relief of the poor in an English town of an equal extent, and are exceedingly less than the funds which would be collected in an English town in a season of calamity.

Though, therefore, the Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee regard the sufferings of the operatives of Paisley with much sympathy, they are of opinion that the *local responsibility* for the relief of the distressed population has not been discharged, and that the property of the town ought to contribute more than has hitherto been collected, to meet the subscriptions of the public.

The Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee have, in the short space of six weeks, already paid 4,800 *l.* for the relief of Paisley, and 450 *l.* for the relief of the adjoining villages, which is more than the whole sum they have hitherto appropriated to the relief of distressed districts in England. The claims of the Paisley Committee have, however, during this period risen from 500*l.* per week to 650*l.*, without any report of contributions having been received from other quarters, or any attempt having been made to raise further local subscriptions.

The districts soliciting aid from the Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee become more numerous from week to week, and the committee are aware of the existence of a generally-diffused embarrassment throughout the manufacturing districts of England, which has a tendency to become *intense* in particular localities. They have administered the funds at their disposal with the most scrupulous care, in reply to the English claimants, because they believe the whole subscriptions and collections at their command are likely to be exhausted *before the distress reaches its greatest intensity.*

Though, however, they are *not*, under these circumstances, willing to accept the responsibility of providing for the population of Paisley, they are cordially disposed to aid the Paisley Committee—to bear *the responsibility which rests upon them*, and to assist them in the adoption of measures to secure a careful distribution of the funds confided to them.

With this view, the Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee are ready, in addition to their former contributions, to grant 621*l.* 9*s.* to defray the debt which had accumulated on the 6th of July. Mr. Hyett, on that date, transmitted 600 *l.* for the *current* week's expenditure; and the committee had also promised, and will accordingly remit, 500 *l. on Wednesday the* 13*th of July*, for the expenditure of the week ensuing, from *Wednesday the* 13*th of July.*

These contributions are made on the following conditions:—

The Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee will expect to receive from the Paisley Committee an account *in detail* of the income of the Paisley Committee from all sources, and of its expenditure on all objects, from the period when the accounts of Mr. Twisleton and Mr. Deputy Commissary Ramsay were closed, to Wednesday the 13th of July, and also

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also that a balance-sheet, showing the entire income and the entire expenditure of the Paisley Committee, shall be transmitted weekly to this committee as long as its contributions are continued.

The committee will also expect to receive every week an account of the number of cases relieved during the week, under each head of the following classes of persons, together with the total value of the relief afforded to each class, stating how much was given in kind, and how much in money, and in how many cases work was done.

| | Number. | Total Amount of Relief to Class in Week ending | | In how many Cases in return for Week. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | In Kind. | In Money. | |
| Able-bodied single men - - - - | | | | |
| Able-bodied single women - - - | | | | |
| Able-bodied men with families of children dependent upon them - - - - | | | | |
| Widows and deserted women with families of children dependent upon them - - | | | | |
| Males and females relieved on account of sickness - - - - - - | | | | |
| Aged and infirm - - - - - - | | | | |
| Orphans and children deserted by their parents - - - - - - | | | | |

The Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee concur with the Paisley Committee in thinking it might be expedient to give a small portion of the relief in money; they therefore consent that one-fifth part of the relief shall be administered in money. The Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee likewise desire to urge, in the strongest terms, that work should be required in return for relief from all able-bodied male claimants.

The committee are unwilling to suggest any change in the Local Committee organized by Mr. Twisleton, further than to concur with the Paisley Committee in the propriety of four gentlemen being added to fill the places of those who have seceded; but they deem it expedient that these gentlemen should be selected by the Paisley Committee, feeling well assured that they will not select any person who has joined in the popular clamour, employed to induce the committee to abandon its duties.

(A correct extract from the Minutes.)

(Init[d]) *W. H. H.*

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XI.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Chairman of the Paisley Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
London, 13 July 1842.

Sir,

Remittance.

I BEG leave to call your attention to the enclosed resolution which was passed by the committee at a meeting held this morning.

Also to intimate that a remittance of 500*l.* was directed to be sent to the Paisley Committee this post by our bankers.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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EXTRACTS from the Minutes of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, 13 July 1842.

Resolutions.

"THE Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee, in transmitting the resolutions of their special meeting of the 11th, contemplated immediate exertions on the part of the Paisley Committee to secure subscriptions in the town and county, as well as contributions from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and from other parts of Scotland."

"Having confidence in the successful result of their exertions, the committee resolved that 621*l.* 9*s.* having been voted on the 11th instant, to discharge the debt, and 500*l.* having been previously voted for the week ensuing, from Wednesday the 13th July, the committee will continue to make grants for one month, from Wednesday the 20th July, on the following principles."

"The committee will, from Wednesday the 20th July, make grants for four weeks, proportionate to the resources obtained by the Paisley Committee, and to the expenditure in the town, provided that expenditure does not exceed 600*l.* per week. The committee will grant during each of the four weeks ensuing, from the 20th July, three-fourths of the weekly expenditure, for the relief of distress in the town, instead of the grants previously made."

"The

"The Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee feel it desirable to state, that their four weekly proportionate grants, on and after the 20th July, will not be made unless the Paisley Relief Committee transmit weekly the balance-sheet of their income and expenditure, carefully prepared; as also a schedule of the number of each class of persons relieved, with the amount of relief in kind and in money to each class, &c., according to the form contained in the resolutions of the committee of the 11th instant." Appendix, No. 2.

(Init[d]) *W. H. H.*

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XII.—LETTER: Clerk to the Paisley Relief Committee to the Secretary of the London Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee.

Sir, County Buildings, Paisley, 18 July 1842.

At a meeting of the Paisley Relief Committee, held to-day, the excerpts transmitted by you from the Minutes of the London Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee, of the 11th and 13th current, were taken into consideration; and I shall, by next post, transmit you an excerpt from the Minutes of the Local Committee, with the statements therein referred to.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Rob. Wilson.*

*P. S.*—The Minutes and Statements as above referred to are enclosed.

(*Vide* Minutes of 18th July 1842.)

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XIII.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to David Murray, Esq.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,

Sir, London, 20 July 1842.

I have the pleasure to inform you that this committee, in accordance with their resolution of the 13th instant, have ordered the remittance of 450 *l.*, in aid of the exertions locally making for the relief of the distress at Paisley. Remittance.

The committee notice a charge of 30 *l.*, to defray the expense of "*Deputation to London,*" in the abstract of your accounts; they desire me to state, "that they cannot recognize such a charge as an item of relief to the distressed poor of Paisley."

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XIV.—LETTER: Provost Henderson, on behalf of the Paisley Relief Committee, to the Secretary of Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee, London.

Friend, Paisley, 25th of 7 mo. 1842.

By directions of the Paisley Relief Committee, I beg to enclose abstract statement of their receipts and disbursements relating to this town, for the week ending 19th current.

I am, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson.*

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XV.—LETTER: Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to the Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Sir, Manufacturers' Relief Committee, 27 July 1842.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the committee, in accordance with their former resolution, remitted the sum of 450 *l.* for the further relief of Paisley; and at the same time to call the attention of the committee to the enclosed resolution. Resolutions.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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Extract of Minutes.—Manufacturers' Relief Committee, 27 July 1842.

"The committee are extremely disappointed that they have not received from Paisley the return of the classes of paupers relieved, required in their letter, dated 9th inst."

"The committee are only induced, by the urgent claims of the poor, to postpone the enforcement of this condition, of the aid they have granted to Paisley; and they expect to receive this return before their next Wednesday's meeting."

"The committee perceive a charge of 50 *l.* 6 *s.* 11 *d.* for the purchase of stone; and the committee therefore expect to receive an account of the sum for which the stone is sold when broken."

(A correct copy.) (Init[d]) *W. H. H.*

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 XVI.—LETTER:

Appendix, No. 2.

XVI.—LETTER: Clerk to the Paisley Relief Committee to the Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Paisley, 1 August 1842.

I AM desired to send you the enclosed abstract of the numbers on the Paisley Relief List for the week ending 19th July last.

*One-third* of the allowances for that week were given in cash; but since the receipt of the London Committee's instructions of 11th July, one-fifth only has been given in cash.

The abstract for the week ending 26th July is in the course of being made up, and will, so soon as finished, be sent to you.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Rob. Wilson.*

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XVII.—LETTER: Clerk to the Paisley Relief Committee to the Secretary of Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Paisley, 5 August 1842.

I ENCLOSE abstract of the expenditure of the Paisley Relief Committee for the week ending Wednesday the 2d current. The gross expenditure for this week is apparently high, in comparison with the previous week; but this arises from a change which took place in the days of giving the relief, in order to bring the weeks to an end with Wednesday, as requested by the London Committee. By this change it so happened, that part of the following week's allowance was paid in the week, the statement for which is now sent.

At the same time I enclose a classified abstract of the numbers on the Relief List, and the allowances, &c. for the week ending 26 July. It would be desirable were I enabled to send you the money abstract and the abstract of numbers for the same week at the same period, but I am prevented doing so from the time it takes to add up the various books of the different classes, &c.

I have, however, given in directions to the clerks in charge of these books to furnish me with the returns with the least possible delay.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Rob. Wilson.*

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XVIII.—LETTER: Assistant Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to the Secretary to the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 6 August 1842.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of the abstract statement of the expenditure of the Paisley Relief Fund, and the numbers on the Supply List, with their dependents, for the week ending 19th ultimo, and I am desired to state that this committee expects to receive similar returns for the weeks ending 26th ultimo, and 3d instant, and each succeeding week regularly.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R^d. Harley*, Assistant Secretary.

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XIX.—LETTER: Secretary to the Paisley Relief Committee to the Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Paisley, 13 August 1842.

State of Funds.

I BEG to enclose an abstract statement of the numbers on the Paisley Relief List for the week ending Wednesday the 2d of August current; and likewise an abstract statement of the income and expenditure of the committee for the week ending Wednesday the 9th of August current.

By the resolution of the London Committee of date 13th July, the grants to Paisley were limited to four weeks subsequent to Wednesday the 20th of July; the amount of the weekly grants to be three-fourths of the expenditure, provided it did not exceed 600 *l.* per week. The statements transmitted for the three weeks subsequent to Wednesday the 20th of July, show an average expenditure of 584 *l.*, and of this weekly disbursement the London Committee have kindly remitted 450 *l.* per week, being rather more than the resolution of 13th July, if strictly adhered to, would warrant. The only other funds of any consequence received during these three weeks has been a sum of 199 *l.* 10 *s.*, transmitted by the General Assembly's Committee, being the second grant from that quarter.

The Paisley Committee regret to observe, from the treasurer's abstract for the week ending 9th current, that there is an excess of expenditure over the income of 74 *l.* 1 *s.* 10½ *d.*, and this notwithstanding the liberality of the London Committee.

In addition to the above excess of expenditure, the committee calculate upon a further deficiency on the current week equal to the difference between the London Committee's grant and the actual expenditure; to meet this deficiency the Paisley Committee have made a further application to the General Assembly's Committee, but it is feared that, from the limited funds realized by that committee, the grant, if any grant is given at all, will not even meet the debt due by this committee.

The liquidation of this deficiency, although of some consequence, is of minor importance to the question which now forces itself upon the notice of the Paisley Committee; viz., the provision for relief of the unemployed population of Paisley subsequent to Wednesday next, 16th of August current, when the grant made by the London Committee on the 13th of July expires.

The

The London Committee will have observed, from the weekly statements of the numbers on the Relief List, that little alteration has taken place, and the Paisley Committee have every reason to believe that there will be no material diminution in the numbers for a considerable time to come. Any slight increase in the manufactures of the town has not been sufficient to take up the great number of the unemployed weavers, who have never been on our fund, and several hundred weavers formerly employed by the Manufacturing Relief Committee, which has now ceased its operations. It is true, also, that the harvest is approaching, and out-door labour will be required; but there are hundreds of labourers in and around the town ready to engage in that work, and with whom the mechanics of the town could not compete. Numbers of these labourers have, for some time past, been in a starving state, and hitherto this committee has been enabled to resist their urgent claims to be admitted on the Relief List, by giving them a very scanty supply of meal and bread to help them over till the harvest arrives. Appendix, No. 2.

The Paisley Committee thus find themselves again in a very perilous position, with large numbers of starving people depending upon them for their daily existence; and the prospect of the supplies being immediately stopped, the Paisley Committee have no alternative but again to throw themselves upon the sympathy of the London Committee. Want of supplies.

This committee has formerly, in writing and by means of their deputation, explained to the London Committee the impossibility of raising further local supplies, and it is unnecessary to reiterate them; but the committee may state, that so utterly prostrate has the town become, from the long-continued depression of trade, that the greatest difficulty exists in raising the assessment for the support of the *ordinary poor*, so much so that there were no funds to meet the quarterly payments which fell due on the 1st of this month, and the difficulty was only got over by an individual advancing the requisite amount.

Notwithstanding the apparent hopelessness of realizing any local supplies, the committee have resolved on making an appeal to the inhabitants of the town and county for assistance, and a sub-committee has been appointed for carrying this resolution into effect.

In the mean time the Paisley Committee are destitute of supplies for the period ensuing this week, and they humbly submit their case to the earnest attention of the London Committee.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Rob. Wilson*, Secretary.

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XX.—LETTER: Assistant Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Secretary to the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 17 August 1842.

I HAVE had the pleasure of laying before this committee your communication of the 13th instant, with enclosures, and I am desired to state in reply, that a grant of 450*l.* has been forwarded to John Henderson, esq., provost, by this post: that this committee, highly appreciating the patience with which the distress at Paisley has been endured, are willing to continue the weekly grant of 450*l.* for the next two weeks. They must, however, attach to this agreement the condition that urgent and unremitting exertions be made by the Paisley ommittee for the collection of funds from the neighbouring district, and this committee desire to be fully informed of the means adopted for this purpose, of the effect of these exertions, and of the measures in course of adoption for the future relief of the town and neighbourhood of Paisley. Remittance, and as to local aid.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Rd Harley*, Assistant-Secretary.

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XXI.—LETTER: Provost Henderson, for the Paisley Relief Committee, to the Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Paisley, 3 September 1842.

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, enclosing a draft for 450*l.* (four hundred and fifty pounds), for the relief of Paisley. Want of supplies.

I have to return my kind thanks for the remittance, and have most earnestly to solicit the attention of the London Committee to the financial affairs of the Committee at Paisley.

During the last week, and for several weeks past, owing to the remittances from Edinburgh having been unexpectedly withheld, the committee have been unable to continue the relief to the unemployed, except on the personal guarantee of Sheriff Campbell and myself. From the weekly statements transmitted, the London Committee will observe that the expenditure has exceeded the income, during the last four or five weeks, from 150*l.* to, occasionally, 200*l.*, and, consequently, the Paisley Committee have again accumulated a debt, or forestalled their remittances, to the amount of about 400*l.* in the whole; and unless the guarantee of additional remittances be obtained from the London Committee, the Committee at Paisley will have no other alternative but to stop the supply at present granted to those dependent on them, whatever may be the result.

I may also add, that last week a meeting took place, and this week a second meeting of the inhabitants, for the purpose of endeavouring to raise a local subscription, but from the general poverty of the people in business, arising from their heavy losses and the long-continued depression of trade, the committee find the raising of a subscription a most disagreeable No local means.

Appendix, No. 2.

disagreeable and up-hill business. In that task, however disagreeable it may be, the Committee are resolved, although they have little prospect of success.

I beg that the London Committee will favour me with an answer to this communication at their earliest convenience.

I am, Sir, &c.
For the Relief Committee,
(signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.

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XXII.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London,
Sir, 7 September 1842.

It is, perhaps, advisable that I should explain to you, that, in consequence of the absence from town of some of the leading members of the committee, I have been unable to procure a quorum, consequently there will not be a meeting until Saturday next, when due consideration will be given to the Paisley application.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XXIII.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London,
Sir, 10 September 1842.

Remittance.

This post will bring you a further grant of 400*l.*, in aid of your exertions for the relief of the distressed operatives of Paisley. I am desired by the committee to apprize you, that this board are in communication with the Edinburgh Committee, with a view to make some arrangements connected with the future transmission of whatever aid may be required by the Paisley Committee.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XXIV.—LETTER: Secretary to the Paisley Relief Committee, to the Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, County Buildings, Paisley, 10 September 1842.

I enclose statements of the numbers on the Paisley Relief List, and of the income and expenditure of the Paisley Relief Committee, for the week ending 6th current.

Debt.

From these statements it is gratifying to observe, that there is a gradual reduction in the numbers depending on the committee for subsistence, and also in the expenditure. The disbursements for the last week amounted to 364*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, being less by 85*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* than the sum remitted by the London Committee; but the debt incurred on prior weeks still left this committee at the end of that week (6th current) in debt to the extent of 134*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* Provost Henderson, in his letter to you of the 3d current, has made a mistake as to the deficiency. He seems to have taken the deficiency shown in each weekly statement as one actually arising on each week; whereas, the deficit shown was one arising out of the committee's whole transactions.

In consequence of this debt, and of the fact of the promised grants from the London Committee being exhausted, the committee in charge of the stores, from which the unemployed are supplied, declined to enter into contracts for the current week. The stores were therefore empty for some hours, and considerable excitement prevailed among the people. The Relief Committee, well aware of the disastrous results which might ensue, and in absence of advices from the London Committee, deemed it their imperative duty to renew the order for contracts for the current week, and which they did, trusting to full indemnity by the London Committee.

Stores empty.

The Paisley Committee earnestly beg the attention of the London Committee to the statement of the Paisley Fund, and to the absolute necessity of carrying on the work of relief in Paisley for some time to come. The number of unemployed is gradually on the decline; the committee are using means for pushing the people off the list; and now that there appears some prospect of terminating the labour of relief, it will be much to be regretted should the peaceful demeanour of the people of this town—so exemplary amidst so much defections—be endangered by any hasty withdrawal of the necessary supplies.

Striking off.

This committee have not yet received any assistance from the Edinburgh Committee—a reply to our application being delayed until a communication is had with the London Committee.

Soup-kitchens.

This committee are of opinion, that, in point of economy and otherwise, it is advisable to establish soup-kitchens in Paisley, from which the unemployed, or a part of them, should receive rations of wholesome soup, as a substitute, in whole or in part, for the supplies of meal and bread presently given; and relying upon a continuance of supplies from the London Committee, this committee are desirous to have their sanction to the institution of these kitchens. The soup will be procured on tender by open contract.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *Rob. Wilson*, Secretary.

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XXV.—LETTER;

XXV.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of Paisley Relief Committee. Appendix, No. 2.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 14 September 1842.

I BEG to acquaint you that the committee have, in consequence of the information conveyed in Mr. Wilson's letter of the 10th instant, with the returns which accompanied it, made a further grant of 300 *l.* in aid of the exertions locally making to raise additional contributions. It affords this committee some satisfaction to observe a continuous reduction in the number of persons upon the Relief List, and a corresponding reduction in the weekly expense. Supply.

The receipt of the enclosed bank post bill for 300 *l.* I will thank you to acknowledge to,

Sir, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XXVI.—LETTER: Secretary to the Paisley Relief Committee to the Secretary of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

County Buildings, Paisley,
Sir, 20 September 1842.

I BEG to inclose the Paisley Relief Statements for the week ending the 13th instant. Reduction on Lists.

You will observe, that there is a still further reduction of the numbers on the list, and I may mention that the committee have now dismissed all the men who are under 40 years of age, and have no dependents. The committee have also refused to admit new applicants, although this is found rather a disagreeable task from the many very clamant cases which are still presenting themselves to the notice of the committee.

The expenditure, notwithstanding the reduction in the numbers, is somewhat above that of the preceding week, but the treasurer informs me, that this is in consequence of a considerable quantity of stores having been on hand, which made the expenditure for that week less than it otherwise would have been.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Rob. Wilson*, Secretary.

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XXVII.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 21 September 1842.

I AM instructed by this committee to acquaint you, that they have made a reduced grant of 250 *l.* for Paisley, and I beg to inquire the reason *why* the *weekly returns* to the 17th instant have *not* been *forwarded* as usual. Remittance.

The receipt of the bank post bill I will thank you to acknowledge to,

Sir, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XXVIII.—LETTER: Paisley Relief Committee to the Secretary of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Paisley, 24 September 1842.

WE transmit herewith abstract of the income and expenditure of the Paisley Relief Committee, for the week ending 20th current, and statement for the same period of the numbers on the Relief List. Reductions.

These statements, as compared with those of the previous week, show respectively a reduction in our expenditure and of the numbers receiving relief.

The statement of numbers on the list shows still 51 single men, at 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, and 13 single men, at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* These men are now off the list, having been dismissed last week; the sums attached to their numbers being a final payment.

The lists for some weeks past have shown a gradual reduction of the numbers. We regret, however, to state, that this reduction has not been caused *entirely* by an increased demand for labour, but by the measures adopted by the Relief Committee (by many deemed harsh), viz., a refusal to admit new applicants, and using every means of forcing the recipients off the list.

By such measures, assisted by some revival in trade, now again unfortunately checked, the Committee have been enabled to reduce the numbers on the list, since the 26th of July last, from 9,833 to 6,412, and the expenditure from upwards of 700 *l.* to little more than 300 *l.* per week.

The revival of trade, to which we have alluded, limited as it was, existed for a very short period, and now the manufacturers are daily dismissing their weavers; and our prospects for a supply of labour for our operatives is, we are grieved to say, as gloomy now as they have been since the commencement of our long protracted and unparal eled distresses.

Appendix, No. 2.

The consequence is, that many of the sober and industrious of our operatives who had obtained temporary employment have been again thrown destitute, and have been obliged to renew their application for relief. Our resolution sometime ago to receive no new applications precluded us from giving assistance to any person however well deserving, but the cases of distress are again so numerous and so clamant, and the scenes of want and destitution which, by personal investigation, many of our committee have witnessed, have reluctantly compelled us again to receive new applications for assistance.

The Relief Committee are unanimous in opinion, that further assistance must be given to many who must otherwise starve, but they are reluctant to go on with the limited supplies of money placed at their disposal. The sums remitted by the London Committee of late have been kept below our lowest amount of expenditure, and by last week's statement it appears that this committee are in debt to the extent of 153 *l.* 4 *s.* 9 *d.*, independent of the debt necessarily contracted for the supplies of the current week.

With this debt, and the prospect of an increased expenditure, many of our number state their resolution to retire from the committee and its responsibilities, unless some assurance is got from the London Committee of a supply of funds sufficient to meet our expenditure.

In these circumstances we again appeal to the London Committee for advice and assistance: it is clear that the operatives cannot be allowed to starve. The disruption of our commercial community has deprived us of local resources to such a degree that our town subscriptions now in progress are unlikely to realize any sum worth taking into account, and our frequent appeals to the county at large render further attempts of that sort hopeless. Our only reliance is on the aid of the London Committee; and we therefore earnestly beg the immediate and serious attention of that committee to the very critical circumstances of our case.

We are, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson.*
*Alex. Campbell.*
*David Murray.*

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XXIX.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 28 September 1842.

Diminished supplies.

I am directed to acquaint you, that a further grant of 300 *l.* has been made for the relief of the existing distress of Paisley; a bank post bill for that amount is enclosed, the receipt of which I will thank you to acknowledge.

I am further directed to state, that this committee will next week give a fuller consideration to the case; but they beg to be understood that their grants must in future be made at a diminishing rate.

The Committee wish to learn what sum has been recently raised, having for some time past been led to expect that another subscription would be made.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *W. H. Hyett,* Secretary.

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XXX.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, London, 5 October 1842.

Objectionable charges.

You will receive by this post a further sum of 300 *l.*, and I am desired by the board to convey to you the following minute:—"Resolved, That the Manufacturers' Relief Committee are disposed to discharge three-fourths of the expenditure of the Paisley Committee, with the understanding that the remaining fourth is raised on the spot, during the course of one month from the present date, provided that the total expense does not exceed 300 *l.* per week."

An investigation of the Paisley accounts having been made, considerable surprise was excited by the following charges:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| "Paid for whin-stones, for road metal | - - - | £. 221 | 5 10 |
| „ Expenses of a deputation to London | - - | 30 | – – |
| „ For town dues | - - - - - - | 4 | 18 4" |

and I am desired to ask for some explanation with regard to these items. The board also request the Paisley Committee will give their attention to the statement in the Pay List, which sets forth that payment continues to be made to persons excused from labour, and to females of different classes, to a large amount; it being the opinion of the committee that these parties are fitter objects for local support than to be placed as recipients of a fund raised for the temporary relief of distressed manufacturers.

I beg to inquire what steps have been taken for the re-establishment of the soup-kitchen.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XXXI.—LETTER:

XXXI.—LETTER: Provost Henderson, for the Paisley Relief Committee, to the Secretary of the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London. Appendix, No. 2.

Council Chambers,
Sir, Paisley, 8 October 1842.

I AM in receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and in reference to the inquiries therein made, I am desired by the Paisley Relief Committee to explain,— Explanation.

1st. *Charge for Stones.*—The committee have all along found the utmost difficulty to procure work for the unemployed; and, in order to secure a test, the committee were obliged to purchase stones for employing the operatives in reducing them into road metal. Unless this had been done, the operatives must in a great measure have been allowed to go almost idle. By an arrangement entered into with Mr. Twisleton and the Town Council (who act for behoof of creditors), the Relief Committee were allowed to take stones from the community's quarry, on paying the price of quarrying, the broken metal being held as the property of the town for the price of the stones; and this is not held to be any bargain on the part of the town, when it is considered that the quarry has been nearly destroyed for town purposes, and the broken metal is a drug on the market, and unsaleable. The sum for stones also includes several sums paid, not only for quarrying, but for the stones from another quarry—the committee being obliged to resort to this last quarry for an additional supply to keep the men at work; the broken metal from this quarter belongs to the Relief Committee. Nearly one-half of the sum of 221 *l.* was incurred during the management of Mr. Twisleton.

*Expense of a Deputation to London.*—That deputation was sent to London by instructions of this committee, when we were in the greatest emergency for funds. It could not be expected that the parties deputed were not only to sacrifice their time, but pay the expenses of the journey from their own pockets, and the Relief Committee deemed the expense a fair charge on the funds.

*Town Dues.*—This charge arises from the fact, that the oatmeal for the stores is sometimes purchased in Glasgow, and, on being brought into Paisley, is subjected to the usual custom. The customs are farmed, and, of course, the tacksman exacts all his rights. It makes no difference to the committee, for, if the meal were bought in Paisley, it would be so much higher in price.

Having answered the queries in your letter, I beg to state, that in a post or two I shall write you, by desire of this committee, as to the present position of their affairs, and as to their determination in the circumstances.

For the Committee, I am, &c.,
(signed) *John Henderson.*

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XXXII.—LETTER: The Paisley Relief Committee to the Distressed Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Gentlemen, Paisley, 10 October 1842.

ON the part of the Paisley Relief Committee, we have again to bring under your notice the distressed and alarming condition of the unemployed workpeople of this place. Trade worse.

Since the date of our letter to you of the 24th ultimo, trade here has been growing worse, and still continues to do so. In the staple trade of the town (the manufacture of shawls) a great part of the masters are dismissing weavers as their work is finished. In some descriptions of weaving, viz. low-priced work is more abundant, and all that can obtain work of that description are taking it, although at a rate which will not yield them, on an average, more than 4 *s.* 6 *d.* clear per week. To facilitate engagements at this low-priced work, by assisting weavers to take it who have not the means of procuring the necessary change of loom mountings, the Paisley Committee, at a recent meeting, placed at the disposal of the poor workmen all the loom mountings purchased last year by subscription; but this effort will supply only a portion of the number of those idle. In addition to this, and for the purpose of making the inadequate funds at their disposal go as far as possible, the Paisley Committee have also reduced the allowances, by deducting one-fifth from those families having male heads, and by turning all the females over to the soup-kitchen list—thus reducing the expense of this latter class by nearly one-third. Considerable numbers have also been entirely struck off the list. Sub-committees of our numbers have been making personal visits to manufacturers in Glasgow and Paisley soliciting work for our operatives. The number of the destitute on our list, in spring last, exceeded 13,000; it is now reduced to below 6,000.

Notwithstanding all this, however, we beg to impress on the London Committee, that the allowance of even 300 *l.* per week will be quite inadequate to meet the demand which we anticipate as necessary to preserve the number of starving people here in existence. For some time past the whole funds which the Paisley Committee have been able to obtain have fallen from 50 *l.* to sometimes 90 *l.* below their necessary weekly expenditure, and the consequence is, that a considerable debt (as shown in the balance sheet now sent) has now accumulated on the personal responsibility of the committee; while, from the increasing depression of trade, already referred to, they believe it will be quite impossible to avoid a considerable addition to the numbers dependent on them, and that of tradesmen of a most respectable class. For some time past, however, the committee have been refusing all new applications for relief, except in cases of absolute want of food; but, during the last eight days, cases have occurred of very great destitution, both of food and fire. In such instances as these, the committee have been reluctantly compelled to administer temporary assistance. Funds.

Appendix, No. 2.

assistance. The committee have likewise reason to believe that very many families unemployed, and not at present on the Relief List, are only keeping themselves in life, by disposing of their remaining furniture and articles of clothing; and the committee have, at present, no other prospect before them but a considerable addition to the number of this class of persons, whose claims for assistance they cannot resist, if they are to maintain peace and order in society.

No local funds.

With regard to a local subscription, so earnestly and so naturally, in your situation, pressed on the attention of the Paisley Committee, we have again to assure you, that so far as such a thing is practicable, the Paisley Committee are most anxious to comply with your wishes, and subscriptions to a small extent have been obtained; but from the long depression of trade in this place—from the general bankruptcy of master manufacturers, and the appalling fact that failures still continue to occur, there are very few persons among us, connected with trade or manufactures, left, from whom the committee could expect subscriptions. Many manufacturers think they do much for the operatives by keeping numbers in employ, for whose services they have no use. During the last eighteen months, landlords have received almost no rents from the operative classes of tenants, while poor-rates have been increased. Shopkeepers of all descriptions have been also suffering severely. Their business is, on an average, understood to be reduced at least one-half, while their poor-rates have been considerably augmented. The less wealthy of this class have been gradually swept away by bankruptcy. Numbers of grocery and other shops are closed in all parts of the town; and as those persons remaining in business are, for the most part, living on their stock, in place of their profits, subscriptions from such a quarter are almost hopeless: the committee, nevertheless, are endeavouring to do what they can.

Good conduct of people.

To this unquestionable statement of facts, we only beg further to add, that while the population of this place has, for so long a time, been suffering these most distressing privations, they have done so with the greatest patience, and without having evinced the slightest disposition to molest private property, or make any movement to disturb the public peace. We most sincerely hope that the unprecedented depression of trade which has so long afflicted this country, but this town more than any other, will at no distant period pass over; and to enable the Paisley people to preserve that peace and good order which has hitherto been maintained here—to enable them to do this by preserving from disease and death those who cannot by any other means obtain food—they thus, as a last effort, beg most respectfully to impress their case on the London Committee. They request it may be remembered that the Paisley Committee cannot command local contributions to enable them to continue the discharge of an onerous and troublesome duty. So circumstanced, they are compelled, with equal respect, to state, that unless they are supported with funds from some quarter, they have no alternative but to relieve themselves, however reluctantly, of a responsibility which they find it impossible to continue.

They herewith transmit excerpts from the minutes of their last two meetings, and request to be favoured with an answer for their government. In the meantime, the committee have given orders for a new contract for provisions for another week.

We have, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.
*Alex. Campbell*, Sheriff-Sub.
*David Murray*, Bailie.

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XXXIII.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 12th October 1842.

Remittance.

I am directed by the committee to transmit the enclosed bank post bill for Five hundred pounds (500*l.*), for the relief of the distress existing at Paisley, the receipt of which please acknowledge to,

Sir, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XXXIV.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London,
Sir, 19 October 1842.

Charges.

In announcing to you the further grant of 250*l.* made by this committee for the relief of the distressed manufacturers of Paisley, I am desired to call your attention to the large amount charged weekly for management and superintendence, which appears to suffer no reduction in proportion to the decrease of numbers relieved.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XXXV.—LETTER;

XXXV.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee. Appendix, No. 2.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 26 October 1842.

I AM instructed by this committee to enclose you a bank post bill for 250*l.*, being a further grant to Paisley, the receipt of which I will thank you to acknowledge. Remittance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett*, Secretary.

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XXXVI.—LETTER: Provost Henderson, for the Paisley Relief Committee, to the Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Sir, Council Chamber, Paisley, 31 October 1842.

I HAVE been desired by the Paisley Relief Committee, to whom, at their last meeting, your letter of the 19th instant was submitted, to state, in answer to the question therein contained, "Why no reduction has taken place in the weekly charge for management and superintendence in proportion to the decrease of numbers relieved?" that the committee have endeavoured, as far as possible, to reduce the expense of management. In the month of June last, prior to Mr. Twisleton's departure from Paisley, the number of visitors, superintendents and clerks was 23, and the gross amount of their wages varied from 15*l.* to 17*l.* per week. At present, the number of these functionaries is 17, and the amount paid to them weekly does not exceed 12*l.* The wages of *visitors* during Mr. Twisleton's management was 1*l.* weekly, and this sum still continues to be paid to those persons who were appointed by that gentleman; while to those who have been once appointed by the committee, only 15*s.* per week have been paid. The committee have, however, agreed to reduce the wages of the former class to 16*s.* per week; this reduction to commence a fortnight hence. The wages paid, to *clerks* and *superintendents* have also been reduced since Mr. Twisleton left Paisley, and at present vary from 8*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* per week, according to the extent and importance of the duties discharged. Explanation of charges.

The committee will lose no opportunity which may present itself of any reduction in the expense of management; but they do not think it would be wise to make such an attempt at present. On the contrary, they are of opinion that the appointment of additional visitors may probably be found necessary to scrutinize the new claims for relief, and to re-investigate the old.

Subjoined is a note of the present wages of the servants employed by the committee.

I am, &c.
For the Committee,
(signed) *John Henderson.*

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NOTE of Wages at present paid to the Servants of the Relief Committee; viz.—

| | | £. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Three visitors | at 20*s.* each. | 3 | – | – |
| Two visitors | at 16*s.* each. | 1 | 10 | – |
| One visitor | at 10*s.* | – | 10 | – |
| One superintendent | at 21*s.* | 1 | 1 | – |
| One superintendent | at 20*s.* | 1 | – | – |
| Three assistant ditto | at 10*s.* each. | 1 | 10 | – |
| One - ditto | at 9*s.* | – | 9 | – |
| One - ditto | at 7*s.* | – | 7 | – |
| One clerk | at 15*s.* | – | 15 | – |
| Two clerks | at 10*s.* each. | 1 | – | – |
| Officer and door-keeper | | – | 8 | 6 |
| | £. | 11 | 10 | 6 |

But there are, besides, two men employed in each of the three provision stores; viz.—three at 14*s.* and three at 10*s.* per week—in all, 3*l.* 12*s.*; and also six persons employed in the soup-kitchens; viz.—two clerks at 9*s.* each, and four cooks at 6*s.* each, per week—in all, 2*l.* 2*s.*

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XXXVII.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London,
Sir 2 November 1842.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your communications and returns, and have the pleasure to inform you that the committee have made an additional grant of 200*l.* for the relief of the distressed manufacturers at Paisley.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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 XXXVIII.—LETTER:

Appendix, No. 2.

XXXVIII.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 9 November 1842.

Remittance. I AM instructed by this committee to transmit to you the enclosed bank post bill for 200 *l.*, being a further grant in aid of local exertions making for the relief of the existing distress at Paisley, the receipt of which be pleased to acknowledge to,

Sir, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XXXIX.—LETTER: Secretary to Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 16 November 1842.

Sources of relief. I AM instructed by this committee to request the favour of your furnishing them with an account of all monies received for the relief of the distress which has existed at Paisley from the 10th June 1841 up to the present period, enumerating the different sources from which aid has been received, and the amount from each source. I am also requested to ask whether you *can furnish them with the average weekly number of recipients during that period?*

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XL.—LETTER: Assistant Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 16 November 1842.

Remittance. I AM instructed by this committee to transmit the enclosed bank post bill for 200 *l.*, in aid of local exertions making for the relief of the existing distress at Paisley, the receipt of which I will thank you to acknowledge.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Rd. Harley*, Assistant Secretary.

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XLI.—LETTER: Provost Henderson, for the Paisley Relief Committee, to the Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London.

Council Chambers,
Sir, Paisley, 21 November 1842.

Increase of destitute. I HAVE perused the letter forwarded to you by Sheriff Campbell on behalf of the County Committee, and I have just in addition to state, that during the last eight days the number of utterly destitute people here is more rapidly on the increase than they have been since the commencement of the distress, and they are likely to continue increasing for some weeks to come, principally in consequence of the stoppage of the manufacture of tartans, without any other branch of trade being likely to take their place for some months.

As will be observed by our weekly statement, the committee was last week 134 *l.* 1 *s.* in debt, and several of the provision accounts had to stand over, unpaid. Whilst I express my own thanks, and that of all parties here, for the grants of money hitherto afforded by the London Committee, I have most earnestly to second the request of the Sheriff, that an addition may be made to the sum sent us, till the county assessment yields some return. From the number of new applicants which the committee will this week have to take on the list, I can see no other prospect than a weekly expenditure, averaging about 500 *l.* per week from this period, till a revival of trade takes place in the ensuing spring.

I have, &c.
On the part of the Paisley Relief Committee,
(signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.

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XLII.—LETTER:

XLII.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee. Appendix, No. 2.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 23 November 1842.

I am directed by this committee to transmit to you the enclosed bank post bill for three hundred pounds (300 *l.*), in aid of exertions making, locally, for the relief of the existing distress at Paisley, the receipt of which I will thank you to acknowledge to, Remittance.

Sir, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XLIII.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Provost Henderson, Chairman of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 30 November 1842.

In consequence of the increased number of applications from manufacturing districts in England, where hitherto the operatives have been relieved by voluntary subscriptions and poor's rates (which have in some instances been carried to the extent of causing an abandonment of the property), together with the severe distress which this committee are called upon to assist in relieving in other parts of Scotland besides Paisley, they are fully impressed with the necessity of announcing to the Paisley Committee, that their future grants must from this date be limited to 200 *l.* per week, which is more than the proportion allotted to other places for the relief of their strictly manufacturing poor. Decrease in grants.

Under these circumstances, this board will not continue to confine the Paisley Committee to a close adherence to the existing regulations, but would recommend their attention to the course now pursued in Greenock, which appears to be both effectual and economical. I am also desired to inform you, that the fund at the disposal of this committee was raised for the relief of the distressed *operative manufacturers* only, and never designed or intended to relieve districts and towns from the burthen of their general destitute poor.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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XLIV.—LETTER: Secretary to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee, London, to Bailie Murray, of the Paisley Relief Committee.

Manufacturers' Relief Committee,
Sir, 74, King William-street, 25 January 1843.

I have the pleasure to enclose bank post bills for four hundred pounds, as a further grant from this committee in aid of local exertions making for the relief of the distress existing in *Paisley, two hundred pounds* of which are to be laid out in the *purchase* of articles of *clothing* and *bedding*. The receipt of these bills I will thank you to acknowledge. Remittance.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. H. Hyett.*

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## Copy CORRESPONDENCE between the Paisley Relief Committee and the Edinburgh National Contribution Committee.

XLV.—LETTER from Alex. Campbell, Sheriff-Substitute, Provost Henderson and Bailie Murray, on behalf of Paisley Relief Committee, to Sir James Forrester, of Comiston, Bart., Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

My Lord, County Buildings, Paisley, 2 July 1842.

In behalf of the Committee for relief of the unemployed of Paisley, who now amount to 8,461, we have to make an earnest application, through you, to the Central Committee in Edinburgh for receiving the national collections for Scotland under the Queen's Letter, for aid in our long-enduring and unprecedented distress. Application for aid from Edinburgh.

We enclose some explanatory excerpts from our correspondence with the London Committee, which will show that they have referred us to your Committee for such additional aid as our necessities require.

The London Committee have agreed to grant us 600 *l.* for the current week; 500 *l.*, 400 *l.* and 300 *l.*, for each of the ensuing weeks; but the amount of expenditure, as it was recently handed over to us by the Government Agents, under whose charge it took place, and who are now recalled, amounted to more than 650 *l.* per week.

Appendix, No. 2.

Though engaged in a revision of our system of expenditure, in the hope of effecting a reduction of it, this can have no effect at all upon the current week, on which the deficiency will be more than 50 *l.*, and very little effect upon next week, in which we have to meet a deficiency of 150 *l.*, and a progressively increasing deficiency for the two following weeks.

In the meantime, therefore, and without waiting for the arrangement of the general plan of distribution, we entreat of the Edinburgh Committee to make to us an interim advance, in consideration of the immediate urgency of our case.

We have, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson,* Provost.
*Alex. Campbell,* Sheriff-Sub.
*David Murray,* Bailie.

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XLVI.—LETTER from William Muir, Esq., Secretary to the Central Committee, Edinburgh, to Provost Henderson, Paisley.

National Contributions.

Sir, Edinburgh, 79, Princes-street, 26 July 1842.

Supply.

Herewith I beg leave to send draft by the Bank of Scotland, on their branch in Paisley, in your favour, for 199 *l.* 10 *s.*, as an additional sum awarded, on a certain principle of division, by the Central Committee, for behoof of the unemployed industrious poor in Paisley, of which you will please to acknowledge receipt.

I send also copy of the regulations adopted by the Central Committee, which, it is understood, will be carried into effect by your committee, as the condition on which the grant is made.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William Muir,*
Secretary to Central Committee.

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XLVII.—LETTER from Provost Henderson, acknowledging receipt of the above.

Respected Friend, Paisley, 27th of 7 mo. 1842.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of thy letter of yesterday's date, transmitting draft on the branch here of the Bank of Scotland for 199 *l.* 10 *s.*, as an additional sum awarded by the Central Committee for behoof of the unemployed operatives of Paisley.

I shall lay thy communication, along with the printed regulations which accompany it, before the Paisley Relief Committee, a meeting of which takes place this evening. In the meantime, I may mention, that these regulations are fully complied with by the committee here.

I am, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson.*

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XLVIII.—LETTER from Secretary of Paisley Relief Committee to Mr. Muir, Secretary of Central Committee, Edinburgh.

Sir, Paisley, 10 August 1842.

State of destitute.

The Paisley Relief Committee acknowledge with much gratitude the sums which the General Committee for Scotland have placed at their disposal. The expenditure of this committee for some time past has exceeded 600 *l.* per week; and although a revival in trade is spoken of, the committee regret to say that no very decided impression has yet been made in Paisley, and there is little prospect of a diminution of the numbers of unemployed on the list, or of the committee's expenditure.

The expenditure hitherto has, in a great measure, been met by the very liberal contributions of the London Committee, but the Paisley Committee regret to state that these grants are likely soon to cease. The last resolution of the London Committee regarding supplies to Paisley limited the grant to 450 *l.* per week, from 20th July last, and the difference between these sums and our actual expenditure (upwards of 600 *l.* weekly) has been met by the contributions from Edinburgh and other quarters.

The grant of the London Committee to Paisley expires with Wednesday next, the 17th current, and, unless renewed or supplies obtained from some other quarter, the unemployed population must be wholly destitute after that date. The Paisley Committee entertain a hope that the renewed application which they have just made to the London Committee will be successful in obtaining a further grant, although it is feared not to the extent hitherto contributed.

contributed. Were the former grant of 450 *l.* weekly continued, there would still be a deficiency of 150 *l.* per week; in these circumstances the Paisley Committee throw themselves upon the sympathy of the Edinburgh Committee, trusting that they will grant a further allocation of funds to Paisley, and on as liberal a scale as our pressing exigencies require. Appendix, No. 2.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Rob. Wilson*, Secretary.

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XLIX.—LETTER from Mr. Muir, Secretary of Central Committee, to Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Paisley Committee.

National Contribution.

Sir, Edinburgh, 79, Princes-street, 16 August 1842.

In reference to your letter of the 10th instant, I am directed by the Central Committee to state, that, before answering further, they wish to be advised of the result of the application, therein referred to, made to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London.

I am, &c.
(signed) *William Muir*, Secretary.

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L.—LETTER from Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Paisley Committee, to Mr. Muir, Secretary of Central Committee.

Sir, County-buildings, Paisley, 19 August 1842.

As requested by your letter of the 16th current, I now prefix copy of a letter from the secretary of the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, which I have just received, from which you will observe that the grant to Paisley of 450 *l.* weekly is to be continued for two weeks to come. Extent of aid wanted.

This grant is not, however, sufficient to meet our expenditure, for, notwithstanding the London Committee's remittances, the Paisley Committee have incurred a debt of 189 *l.* during the two weeks ending on the 16th current.

The Paisley Committee earnestly beg that the Edinburgh Committee will grant a sum to liquidate the above debt of 189 *l.*, and to meet the future excess of our expenditure over the grant of the London Committee.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Rob. Wilson*, Secretary.

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LI.—LETTER from Mr. Muir, Secretary to Central Committee, to Secretary of Paisley Committee.

National Contribution.

Sir, Edinburgh, 79, Princes-street, 24 August 1842.

Your communication of the 19th current, prefixing copy of a letter of the 17th, received from the Committee in London, was yesterday laid before a meeting of the Central Committee acting here, and they having directed that their secretary should correspond with the London Committee in regard to the supplies now in course of being made by the latter to Paisley, I am requested to say, that so soon as any result shall be arrived at, you shall immediately hear from me.

I am, &c.
(signed) *William Muir*, Secretary.

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LII.—EXCERPTS from the Minutes of the Town Council of Paisley, as to the Distress among the unemployed Operatives of the Town.

22 June 1841.

A memorial from the unemployed operatives of the town, was read. It was moved by Mr. Stirrat, That the Provost be requested to call a public meeting, on an early day, of the inhabitants of the town, and the gentlemen of the surrounding districts, to take into consideration the best mode of obtaining subscriptions for the relief of the unemployed operatives of the town. Which motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson, and carried unanimously. Public meeting.

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Appendix, No. 2.

7 July 1841.

Breaking stones.

Bailie Murray reported verbally, that at a meeting of a committee appointed at a public meeting lately held to consider the best means of relieving the unemployed operatives, it was recommended that application should be made to the Town Council for work in breaking stones for such as could undertake this kind of labour.

The council, on considering this recommendation, agreed to have a quantity of road metal broken at their quarry by the unemployed operatives, and remitted to the Provost, Bailie Murray and Bailie Ritchie, as a committee to meet with the Relief Committee, and agree as to the price to be paid, and other details.

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20 July 1841.

Guarantees as to funds.

A memorial from the unemployed operatives, was read.

It was moved by Mr. Kirkland, That the council do agree to guarantee a credit in any of the banks to the extent of 200*l.* upon the faith of the voluntary assessment now in the course of collection for relief of the unemployed operatives. Which motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

It was moved by Bailie Ritchie, That the council agree to guarantee Mr. Andrew Warnock, treasurer of the Relief Fund, in the sum of , on the understanding that the sum so guaranteed should be refunded from a compulsory assessment, if it shall be found absolutely necessary to resort to such a measure, and as by that means a fair space of time will be afforded to work out the experiment of the voluntary assessment of 25 per cent. on the last assessment for the poor. Which motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell.

It was moved by Bailie Murray, as an amendment, That the council, learning that the treasurer of the Relief Committee requires money to meet the present demand upon that committee, resolve, and do hereby become guarantee for any temporary advances which may be made for relief of the unemployed until this day week; and do hereby recommend to the Relief Committee to use still further measures to procure payment of the voluntary assessment agreed to at the late public meeting of the inhabitants. Which motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The amendment moved by Bailie Murray was put and carried. The motion of Bailie Ritchie was put and lost.

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14 September 1841.

Government.

It was moved by Mr. Henderson, That the council do memorialize Her Majesty's Government not to consent to any adjournment of Parliament until it shall have taken the present alarming state of the country into consideration, and devised means for the relief of the existing distress; and that the council do also petition Parliament to the same effect; the petition to be subscribed by the magistrates and council. Which motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell, and carried unanimously.

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7th December 1841.

Memorial from unemployed.

A memorial from the unemployed operatives of the town was read.

It was moved by Mr. Walter Blair, That the council deeply sympathise with the memorialists in their distressed condition, and that the memorial be transmitted to the Relief Committee, with an earnest recommendation by the council that they will take the same into their favourable consideration. Which motion was seconded by Mr. Stirrat, and carried.

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30 September 1842.

Town subscription.

Provost Henderson gave notice that, at next meeting of the council, he would call the attention of the members to the propriety of commencing a subscription in the town, in aid of the funds for relief of the unemployed—a measure urgently pressed upon the Paisley Relief Committee by the Distressed Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London, from whom the principal support has for some months been obtained.

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11 October 1842.

Town subscription.

Provost Henderson, in terms of notice given at last meeting, called the attention of the council to the propriety of commencing a subscription in aid of funds for the relief of the unemployed of the town. He stated, that although the unemployed were at present unfortunately on the increase, and the present expenditure upwards of 300*l.* per week, the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee, from whom the principal support had, for some months, been received, had resolved to limit their assistance to a period of one month, and to three-fourths of the expenditure, provided the same did not exceed 300*l.* per week, leaving it to the Paisley Relief Committee to raise the other one-fourth in the town. The Provost laid a subscription-sheet on the table.

On the motion of Bailie Murray, the council agreed to give their individual subscriptions, and they also earnestly recommend the inhabitants in this emergency to subscribe to the funds.

Bailie Murray further moved, That while the council fully recognise the necessity and propriety of every local exertion to raise contributions for relief of the destitute unemployed

in

in Paisley, the council consider it equally necessary and proper, in consideration of the present prospect of increased expenditure, to represent to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London, that anything like a general subscription in the town, or to an extent required by that Committee, is utterly hopeless. Which motion being seconded was put and carried. Appendix, No. 2.

A memorial from the unemployed operatives of the town, relative to a reduction which had been made by the Relief Committee in their allowances, and craving the interference and assistance of the council, was read.

Also a memorial from a number of persons who had been refused any support whatever from the committee.

On the motion of Mr. Stirrat, it was resolved unanimously, That the council regret exceedingly the destitution and distress which exist in the town, and that the funds placed at the disposal of the Relief Committee is such as to prevent them giving that assistance which the emergency demands. Further, that this council, as conservators of the good order of the community, do immediately represent to the Government the critical position in which the population of Paisley is now placed, and the utter inability of the Relief Committee or the authorities to obtain local supplies for the adequate relief of the wide-spread and increasing destitution of the unemployed of the town. No local supplies.

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26 October 1842.

A REPRESENTATION to Sir James Graham, Bart., Home Secretary, as to the state of distress among the unemployed in the town, was read, approved of, and subscribed, and ordered to be immediately transmitted.

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25 November 1842.

THE letter from the clerk of supply, read at last meeting, regarding the proposed voluntary assessment for behoof of the unemployed, was again read and taken into consideration.

The council resolved, that in answer to the letter it should be intimated, that to levy the proportion of the sum proposed to be raised within the town of Paisley, by an assessment on the whole property within the burgh, would not only require a long time to collect the amount, but be attended with considerable expense; that the council had lately recommended to the inhabitants of the town a subscription for behoof of the unemployed, and from which a considerable sum had already been realized; and that as this subscription was still going on, and likely to realize more than the proportion of the proposed voluntary assessment, the council declined to recommend such assessment within the town. Attempt to make a voluntary assessment.

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6 December 1842.

A MEMORIAL from the unemployed operatives of the burgh was read, complaining of a reduction, to the extent of one-half, of the allowances to them by the Relief Committee, and craving the interposition of the Town Council on their behalf. Reduced allowances.

The Provost stated, that the reduction of the allowances to one-half had been forced on the Relief Committee in consequence of the London Manufacturers' Relief Committee having limited the grants to Paisley to 200*l.* per week, while the sum required for the very scanty allowances usually given to the unemployed is about 500*l.* per week. The Provost further stated, that the magistrates had last night written to Sir James Graham, the Home Secretary, remonstrating against the reduction of the grants, and pointing out the absolute necessity of placing funds at the disposal of the Paisley Relief Committee adequate to ward off the evils of starvation from the thousands of destitute people in this town, and the calamitous consequences. A copy of the letter written by the magistrates to Sir James Graham was read to the council. Communication to Government.

On the motion of Mr. Stirrat, seconded by Mr. Bisset, the council approved of the course which the magistrates had adopted, and, to strengthen their hands in this important and painful emergency, resolved that a copy of the memorial from the unemployed be transmitted to the Home Secretary, and that the council do memorialize Her Majesty's Government on the subject; and they remitted to Messrs. Stirrat, Bisset, Hastie, Semple and Kirkland, as a committee to prepare the memorial, to be subscribed by the whole members of council, and forwarded without delay. Mr. Stirrat was named convener of the committee.

The council requested the Provost to bring the matter of the allowances to the unemployed before the meeting of the county called for Friday first.

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13 December 1842.

COPY of memorial to Her Majesty's Government, prepared in terms of the resolution of last meeting, was read to the meeting, and appointed to be engrossed at the end of this sederunt. Communication to Government.

It was stated that no answer had yet been received to the above memorial.

An answer which the magistrates had received to the letter written to the Home Secretary, and read at last meeting, was laid before the meeting.

Appendix, No. 2.

The council agreed to meet on Thursday first, at four P. M., specially to deliberate as to a further memorial and remonstrance to Her Majesty's Government, in the event of the answer to the council's previous memorial being in terms similar to the one received by the magistrates, or in the event of no answer being received.

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15 December 1842.

Answer by Government.

A LETTER from Sir Robert Peel, in answer to the memorial transmitted to the Government, as to the state of the unemployed, was read.

The council, having considered the said letter, unanimously recommend to the magistrates that, under the circumstances in which the Relief Committee is now placed in regard to the very great number of persons depending on them for support, and there not being adequate funds to meet the demands, to forward another and pressing memorial to Government, without loss of time, craving the advice and assistance of Her Majesty's Ministers in the present emergency.

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11 January 1843.

Petition by unemployed.

A PETITION was read from a portion of the unemployed operatives of the town, whom the Relief Committee had this day transferred from the store allowances to the soup-kitchen list, and stating that the soup allowance was inadequate to support them. The council came to no resolution on the subject.

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## LIII.—CORRESPONDENCE between the MAGISTRATES and TOWN COUNCIL of PAISLEY with HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, as to the Distress in Paisley.

Unto the Right Honourable Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department;

The humble MEMORIAL of the Provost and Bailies of the Town of Paisley,

Memorial to Government.

Sheweth,—THAT your memorialists beg most respectfully to solicit the attention of your Lordship to the following statements:—

The population of Paisley are chiefly employed at manufacturing operations, and, in common with the inhabitants of other manufacturing districts, they have felt long and severely the commercial depression which prevails throughout this country generally.

For some time past, however, the trade of this town, in particular, has been greatly paralyzed; failures have taken place to a fearful amount,—many, even of our most extensive and influential houses having lately become bankrupt; and, in consequence, large numbers of our industrious operatives have been entirely thrown out of employment—an event for which, from the previous low rate of wages, they were but ill prepared.

So far back as the month of May last, application was made to the authorities here on behalf of the unemployed, and, in the hope that the stagnation in trade which then existed would be only partial and temporary, a public subscription was resorted to, under the auspices of the magistrates, as the most eligible means of affording relief.

But that stagnation continuing, and the distress which, it was hoped, would be but limited, having increased to an alarming extent, a public meeting of the inhabitants was called on the 29th of June, at which a committee was appointed "for the purpose of procuring a fund for the suitable relief of the unemployed;" and, as the fairest and best method of raising this fund, a proposal was also made and agreed to of allocating a voluntary assessment upon the inhabitants to the extent of 25 per cent. on the amount of their annual assessment for the poor.

From this source and other charitable donations the committee appointed by that meeting have been hitherto enabled to relieve, in some measure at least, the most urgent cases of destitution. The distress, however, still continues; and, your memorialists are sorry to add, is daily on the increase. The number at present depending on the committee for aid is upwards of 2,600; many more very necessitous cases might be relieved had the committee the means; and although the assistance which they are enabled to afford, in individual cases, is, from the limited nature of the funds placed at their disposal, necessarily of a very inadequate nature, their weekly expenditure is upwards of 100 *l.*

In the meantime, while local resources must soon be exhausted, the committee's treasurer is considerably in advance. Many of the unemployed who have not yet sought relief from the public fund, will be compelled to do so should the distress continue much longer to prevail; and in this event, which the Committee fear recent local occurrences fully warrant them to anticipate, they will speedily be obliged, however reluctantly, to solicit the assistance and co-operation of Government in the providing of that relief to a suffering population, which, from its present impoverished condition, this town will, of itself, be altogether unable to supply.

In these circumstances, your memorialists, as the public guardians of the town, consider it their duty to acquaint your Lordship, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, of the distress which at present exists among the operatives of this place, from the causes above set forth, as well as of the means in operation for its relief.

Paisley, 4 August 1841.

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LIV.—ANSWER from the Marquis of Normanby to the foregoing Memorial.

Appendix, No. 2.

Sir, Whitehall, 11 August 1841.

I am directed by the Marquis of Normanby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, forwarding a memorial from the magistracy of Paisley regarding the state of the operatives of that place from the want of employment, and at the same time representing that the funds raised for their relief are nearly exhausted. No aid.

Lord Normanby is greatly concerned at the distress which prevails at Paisley, but his Lordship hopes, that an increased demand for the produce of their labour may soon give full employment to the distressed operatives. Should this not take place, Lord Normanby requests to hear again from you, and his Lordship will not fail to give the subject his best consideration.

I have, &c.

The Provost of Paisley. (signed) *S. M. Phillips.*

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LV.—LETTER from the Magistrates to Sir James Graham.

Sir, 27 April 1842.

On the 24th current, I transmitted a letter to the Sheriff of Renfrewshire, in reference to the commotion among the large body of the unemployed workmen, in consequence of the recent change in the mode of giving them relief, viz., by issues of *meal, bread* and *potatoes* only, from public stores, in place as formerly of orders upon grocers for general supplies. I understand to-day that my letter has been sent to you by the Sheriff, and I therefore think it proper to inform you, that on Saturday the whole workmen assembled in front of our public buildings, where they continued (frequently addressed by speakers) until four o'clock on Sunday morning, and rather than take the orders upon the stores, they threw themselves upon public charity. A public meeting of the inhabitants was held on the Monday evening, and the change in the administration of relief was unanimously condemned. A meeting of the General Relief Committee was held to-day, and I send you enclosed copy of the resolution adopted by the meeting. Commotions as to kind of relief.

The change in the mode of relief is not only felt among the unemployed themselves as most oppressive, but, with few exceptions, is condemned by the great body of the inhabitants. So unpopular is it, that out of eighteen captains of the constabulary force, whom the magistrates deemed it prudent to invite to a meeting on Saturday, to make arrangements for preserving the peace of the town, should unfortunately any disturbance take place, only four attended; and many likewise state, that the overseers of the poor (the ordinary poor), whose assistance is required in certifying the accuracy of the applications for relief, on the ground of want of employment, have refused to act with the magistracy and the Relief Committee since the change of the system of relief.

During the Monday the town was in a continued commotion, which was latterly repressed; the unemployed having by persuasion taken the tickets for the stores, on condition of the Relief Committee re-considering the store system, and the propriety of altering it.

I have, &c.

To the Right honourable for the Magistrates of the Town,
Sir James Graham, Bart., &c. &c. (signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.

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LVI.—LETTER from the Magistrates to Sir James Graham.

Sir, 28 April 1842.

It is with regret we, the magistrates of Paisley, feel ourselves to-day again under the necessity of troubling the members of Her Majesty's Government with our local affairs, and the condition of the inhabitants; but the position in which we feel ourselves placed, for want of the means to relieve the large destitute population depending on our exertions and that of the Relief Committee for maintenance, and the fear that the previous communications which have been sent through the Sheriff of the county, and directly by ourselves to the Home Office, may not have the effect of convincing Her Majesty's Ministers of the propriety of acceding to our request, we feel ourselves under the necessity of again stating our case, and of expressing our hope that the reasonable request which we urge will be complied with, viz., that the destitute people be allowed a greater variety of food (and such as is suitable for their several ages, state of health and varied constitutions), than barely oatmeal, bread and potatoes, the only articles permitted by the Government commissioner, Mr. Twisleton, to be given out in the stores which have been set on foot for their use. Farther representation to Government.

We have already explained, in the previous communications, the danger that exists to the peace of the town, and the general dissatisfaction entertained by all ranks of the inhabitants on account of such harsh measures being resorted to for the purpose of compelling the unemployed to seek work when no work can be found; and we have only now to repeat, that we are not aware of similar restrictions in diet ever having been proposed to any other destitute population in the united kingdom; and which, besides being more limited in amount, is also far more limited in variety than that afforded to the common felons in prison.

We are quite aware that, some months ago, when the political agitation was at its height for an alteration of the Corn Laws, and other commercial regulations, suspicions were entertained,

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tained, and widely given currency to, by those opposed to a change, that the distress at Paisley was exaggerated for the purpose of supporting an alteration. These statements Her Majesty's Ministers must now, we should hope, be aware, were quite unfounded; but, in addition, when the cause is entirely removed—when the necessity of a change in our laws is not only admitted, but partly carried into effect, and when the local authorities of this town are lending their influence and aid for the purpose of enabling Her Majesty's Ministers to carry their measures into effect—all grounds of jealousy as to exaggerated statements of the distress being kept up by the magistrates here ought naturally to be removed, because no motive whatever can possibly exist for our so doing.

In addition to this, we would most respectfully urge on the members of Government the propriety of acceding to our request for permitting an addition to the food of the people beyond mere bread and water, or potatoes and water, for the following brief reasons:—

1. Because such a variety in their food is what the people have been accustomed to, and consequently, from general experience, as well as from universal medical testimony, it would be impossible to maintain them in health on such a limited variety of aliment.

2. Because a good deal of disease at present exists in town, particularly scarlet fever, in the families of many of those on the Supply List, and many of the people are also breaking down on account of the long time they have been already confined to a limited and meagre diet.

3. Because, on the Relief List, we have people in all the various stages of life, from the pregnant mother, the woman in child-bed, the new-born infant, and the aged and infirm of both sexes; all of whom, by the peculiar poor-law of Scotland, are denied aid from the ordinary poor-roll, unless they are completely bed-ridden or helpless, or have neither parent nor child to assist them.

4. That were the people even to submit willingly and patiently to take the provisions set apart for them, they must inevitably dispose of a portion of the too limited allowance they receive, at a loss, to obtain milk, or some substitute for it, such as butter, cheese, or some kind of fish, or butchers' meat, as well as soap, and the means of light, a part of which articles are just as indispensable for the maintenance of life and health as either bread or potatoes.

5. That the enforcement of the proposals of Mr. Twisleton could not be effected as formerly stated, without great danger to the peace, and the certain annoyance of the inhabitants; and if the attempt be persevered in, a strong and uncalled-for hostility of feeling will be raised against the members of Government, who must thereby incur a great degree of unpopularity and odium with the whole working population, and also a considerable portion of those in other ranks of life throughout all parts of the kingdom.

For these reasons we have most respectfully to request that Government would accede to the resolution passed at the meeting of the Relief Committee yesterday, for granting that one-fourth of the allowance paid to the unemployed should be given in money, to enable them to procure all the other necessaries of life they may stand in need of beyond oatmeal, potatoes and bread. While we earnestly make this request, we think it but justice to ourselves to state, that we could not give our consent to any further restriction, and that by far the simplest and best mode of giving relief to the destitute, and of paying those who have to labour, would be to give them the whole of their allowance, whatever it may be, in cash, to do with it as they may think proper.

We have, &c.,

(signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.
*David Murray*, Bailie.
*Robert Paton*, Bailie.
*John Smith*, Bailie.
*Thomas Taylor*, jun., Treasurer.

The Right hon.
Sir James Graham.

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## LVII.—ANSWER from Sir James Graham.

Sir, Whitehall, 29 April 1842.

No aid.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, with its enclosure, on the subject of the distress which exists in your district, and of the mode adopted in affording relief, and to acquaint you, that the funds placed at the disposal of the Relief Committee will, of course, be applied in the manner they may consider most judicious.

I have further to state that the Government rely on the continued exertions of the local authorities for the maintenance of the public peace.

I have, &c.,

The Provost of Paisley. (signed) *H. Manners Sutton.*

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LVIII.—LETTER

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LVIII.—LETTER from the Magistrates to Sir James Graham.

Sir, 11th October 1842.

Deficiency of funds.

The magistrates of Paisley deem it their duty to lay before you a copy of a letter which the Committee formed in this town for relief of the destitute unemployed operatives have transmitted to the Distressed Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London.

Although the expenditure of the Paisley Committee exceeds, considerably, 300*l.* per week, and although there is, unhappily, every prospect of an increased expenditure, in consequence of large numbers of the weavers being now dismissed by their employers, the London Committee have intimated their resolution to limit the supplies to Paisley to three-fourths of 300*l.* per week, leaving the Paisley Committee to raise the other fourth on the spot—a proviso which the magistrates of Paisley are fully satisfied cannot be implemented. They earnestly beg your attention to the statements on this point in the letter of the Relief Committee, convinced, as the magistrates are, that it will be impossible for the Committee to continue their labours unless a sufficiency of funds is placed at their disposal.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir James Graham. (signed) *John Henderson,*
for the Magistrates.

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LIX.—ANSWER to the above Letter, from Sir James Graham.

Sir, Whitehall, 17 October 1842.

Answer.

Sir James Graham has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, inclosing copy of a letter which the Relief Committee at Paisley have transmitted to the Relief Committee in London; and to assure you that he is giving the subject his most anxious attention.

John Henderson, Esq. I have, &c.

(signed) *S. M. Phillips.*

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LX.—REPRESENTATION by the Magistrates and Council to Sir James Graham.

To the Right Honourable Sir James Graham, Bart., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Representation of the Provost, Bailies and Council of the Town of Paisley, in Common Council assembled.

Want of funds.

Memorials have been presented to us on behalf of the unemployed operatives of this town, complaining of the reduction in the allowances given to those on the Relief List, and also of the refusal, on the part of the Local Relief Committee, to give any supply whatever to new applicants.

These measures have been forced on the Relief Committee, not because they deemed the allowances given to be sufficient, or that those persons, when pressing applications were refused, were less deserving than those already on the list, but solely in consequence of a want of funds.

As conservators of the public peace of this large and populous community, we deem it our duty to represent this state of things to you.

It is unnecessary for us to lay before you any details of the misery and distress which have now for a considerable period existed among the operatives of this town, for of these things you must be well aware.

The weekly expenditure of the Paisley Relief Committee, for some time past, has exceeded, considerably, 300*l.*; and it would have been much greater had not the committee resorted to measures (deemed by many to be too harsh) of reduction in the allowances, and also refused to admit new applicants.

And now the Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee, from whom the only supplies have been obtained for a number of months past, have intimated their intention of limiting their assistance to one month, and to three-fourths of the expenditure, provided that expenditure does not exceed 300*l.* per week, and on the condition that the remainder is made up by local subscriptions.

Further local subscriptions in the town of Paisley, to the extent required by the London Committee, it is utterly hopeless to expect. The long-continued depression of trade, and the almost universal bankruptcy of the master manufacturers and others in business, have left few among the inhabitants who would contribute to the Relief Fund. Many manufacturers think they do much for the operatives by keeping numbers in employment for whose services they have no use. Shopkeepers in the town have also suffered severely, their business, it is believed, being reduced one half; and during the last 18 months landlords have received almost no rents from the working class of tenants, while the ordinary poor-rates have been greatly augmented. In short, so completely stricken have all classes of the community been by the unfortunate calamity which has affected the country, but this town in particular, that the parties from whom, on former occasions, subscriptions might have been expected, have the greatest difficulty in supporting themselves and their families.

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Notwithstanding this, the Local Relief Committee have, in compliance with the urgent request of the London Committee, commenced a new subscription here, but the small progress hitherto made in this undertaking shows but too clearly the hopelessness of the task. The subscriptions which may be raised will not, it is believed, be adequate to support the unemployed for a week.

Such is the state of things here at present, and although bad, it is the opinion of those well versed in trade, that matters will soon be worse, and that the ensuing winter will be one of unexampled suffering—indications of this are already felt. For a short time during the last two months, some of the best weavers in Paisley were employed in weaving a rich description of shawls patronized by Her Majesty; but that trade is now over, and the master manufacturers are dismissing their workmen, by whom urgent demands are made for relief.

To preserve from starvation the unemployed at present on the list, as well as the masses which it is to be feared will be speedily thrown upon public charity, is a task for which no merely local exertion is equal, even in ordinary circumstances; and, in the present impoverished condition of this town, it is altogether out of the question.

The attempt, therefore, of the London Committee to reduce the supplies to Paisley below what is sufficient to preserve these masses in existence, if persevered in, must be attended with fearful consequences. The authorities of the town are willing to lend every personal exertion and labour in distributing, in the most sparing manner, the means placed at their disposal; and they do now most humbly, but earnestly, beg leave to impress upon your mind the urgent necessity of enabling them to administer an adequate amount of relief, as the best means of maintaining the public tranquillity.

Signed, &c., 25 October 1842.

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LXI.—LETTER from the Magistrates to Sir James Graham, Bart., &c. &c.

Sir, Paisley, 5 December 1842.

Reduction of allowances.

You will have seen from the Minutes of the Paisley Relief Committee, forwarded to you, that, from want of funds, they have been under the necessity of reducing the usual weekly allowances to the destitute unemployed *one-half*.

The magistrates of Paisley concur with the Relief Committee in fearing the most calamitous consequences from so many people being deprived of any thing approaching an allowance of food capable of maintaining life. They most earnestly assure you, that almost the whole of the large population dependent on the Relief Committee have no means whatever of obtaining food; they can find no partial employment, otherwise they would not be regarded as in want—they have not the advantage of living on the sea coast, such as those at Greenock or elsewhere, who, when every other source fails, have sea-fishing to fall back upon. In this inland place, the people are accustomed only to sedentary employments, and no such resource is left; and, in addition, their furniture, their bed-clothes, wearing apparel, and even their working implements, have, for the most part, been already disposed of to procure food.

Awful prospects.

After Friday first, the day when the provisions served out for the week, beginning on Wednesday next, will be exhausted, the destitute people here, amounting to nearly 10,000 persons, will have no alternative but either to commence begging *en masse*—to take food where they can find it—or to die quietly of starvation in their houses. If they remain peaceably in their houses, they must, of necessity, perish from want. If they go out soliciting food, either by begging or otherwise, then they commit a direct breach of the law.

In these circumstances, we deem it our duty, as magistrates of this burgh, to apprize you of our painful position, As magistrates, we are resolved to discharge our duty faithfully and energetically to the best of our ability; but, unless a considerable addition to the grants promised us by the London Relief Committee are forwarded, our efforts will be paralysed, and we will not venture to predict the consequences which may ensue. The average allowance at present given by the Paisley Committee is scarcely three-halfpence per day, or about the cost of the breakfast of a felon in prison, and to offer a less allowance than this, we are of opinion, would only be to mock the people's misery without keeping them in life.

The town of Paisley was specially included as one of the places for which the money raised under the Queen's Letter was to be applied, and in addition, as grants of public money have frequently been made to the Refugee Poles, to the West Indies, to Canada, Ireland, the Highlands of Scotland, and even to the manufacturing districts in England and Scotland, we have most respectfully to express our hope that the aggravation of our present calamity, which we are afraid of, may be averted for the short time which we trust the distress is now likely to continue, or at least until the turn of the season; and that such grants will be made to the Paisley Committee, which, with such local funds as may be raised, will enable them to continue the limited and very inadequate allowance which they have been accustomed to give to the destitute and numerous portion of our fellow-townsmen, who have been reduced to starvation from no fault of their own.

We have, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson*, Provost.
*David Murray*, Bailie.
*George Todd*, Bailie.
*John Smith*, Bailie.
*Robert Paton*, Bailie.

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LXII.—ANSWER

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LXII.—ANSWER from Sir James Graham to the foregoing Communication.

Gentlemen, Whitehall, 9 December 1842.

I am directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, in which you inform him that the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London have reduced to the sum of 200 *l.* their weekly grant to the Paisley Relief Committee. No public funds for relief.

I am desired to acquaint you, that Secretary Sir James Graham has no control over the funds which have been collected for the relief of distress in the manufacturing districts, the disposal of which has been confined to the Manufacturers' Relief Committee in London.

I am further to inform you, with reference to your request that funds should be provided by Her Majesty's Government for the relief of the unemployed in Paisley, that Sir James Graham can hold out no hopes of such relief being granted.

Her Majesty's Government have the disposal of no funds applicable to this purpose; and while Sir James Graham deeply regrets the distress which prevails in Paisley, he is convinced that that distress can alone be relieved by increased exertions on the part of those resident in that town and in the surrounding districts, joined with the exercise of vigilant care on the part of the Local Relief Committee, in discriminating between worthy and unworthy applicants for relief.

Sir James Graham learns with sorrow that you entertain a fear that the public peace may be disturbed. He confidently hopes that this will not be the case. It will be the duty of the magistrates and of the local authorities to repress all attempts to violate the law, either by intimidation or outrage; and he believes that active exertions to relieve the existing distress, combined with the prompt adoption of vigorous and energetic measures to check any disposition to tumult, should such disposition unfortunately be manifested, will prevent the outbreak which you anticipate, and preserve peace and tranquillity in the town.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. Manners Sutton.*

The Provost and Bailies of Paisley.

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LXIII.—MEMORIAL by the Magistrates and Council to Government.

7 December 1842.

To the Right honourable Sir Robert Peel, Baronet, and the other Members of Her Majesty's Government.

The Memorial of the Provost, Bailies, Treasurer and Councillors of the Town of Paisley, in Common Council assembled.

There has been presented to us a Memorial from the unemployed operatives of this town, complaining of a reduction, to the extent of one-half, of the very scanty allowances given them by the Relief Committee. A copy of that Memorial is transmitted herewith. Want of funds.

We have also seen a copy of the letter which the provosts and magistrates of the town have transmitted, on the 5th instant, to the Home Secretary on this subject; and we beg to assure Her Majesty's Ministers, that we entirely concur in the sentiments contained in that letter.

The peculiar and unfortunate position of this town, with regard to its destitute unemployed operatives, has been frequently brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Ministers, and we deem it unnecessary to trouble them with a recapitulation of the details. In brief terms, matters stand thus: Paisley contains a population of 50,000, with few exceptions, entirely of the operative classes, the great majority of whom are at present, and have been for the last 18 months, more or less unemployed; and there are, at present, about 10,000 persons dependent entirely on public charity for the means of subsistence. These persons cannot obtain work in the town, and there is no work for them elsewhere. To afford these unfortunate persons as much food as will barely sustain life requires an expenditure, at present, nearly approaching 500 *l.* per week, and the London Manufacturers' Distress Relief Committee have intimated that their grants to Paisley will be limited to 200 *l.* per week.

The inhabitants of the town, deeply impoverished by the long and disastrous stagnation in trade, are unable to do any thing for the relief of their suffering townsmen; and the limitation of the grants by the London Committee reduce the unfortunate operatives, as the magistrates have stated, to the painful alternative of perishing from want, or to beg, or forcibly take what will preserve themselves and families from starvation.

As the municipal representatives of this community, we cannot contemplate the unfortunate emergency in which this town is placed without the greatest anxiety; and we deem it our duty to join the magistrates in giving distinct intimation to Her Majesty's Ministers of this state of things, the evils of which no local exertion can ward off.

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Appendix, No. 2.

## LXIV.—LETTER from the Magistrates to Sir James Graham.

Sir, 19 January 1843.

Dangerous state of population.

We deem it our duty immediately to apprize you of the dangerous state of the peace of this community.

We need not inform you of the numbers of destitute unemployed workmen in this town—of the long-continued depression in trade—and of the great sufferings of the working classes. On these points you are fully informed, and we have, on various recent occasions, communicated with you on this subject.

Perhaps you are also aware that, by a recent resolution of the committee who have charge of the funds for relief of the unemployed workmen and their families, it was agreed, on account of want of adequate funds, to refuse to admit any new applicants on the roll, however deserving, or however urgent and distressing their case might be.

You are likewise aware that the allowances to those who are still retained on the list has been reduced from time to time, until it now averages only one penny per head daily.

We have now to inform you, that in the course of this day a body of the unemployed workmen, amounting to about 400, consisting partly of those on the Relief List, but, as we understand, chiefly of those who have been refused admittance to the roll, paraded the streets of this town in a band, and waited upon us at our respective dwelling-houses, and intimated that many of themselves and their families were starving, and that unless they were supplied with food, that they would take it where they could find it.

With this threatened breach of the peace we are placed in a most painful position; we have no power, by compulsory assessment, or otherwise, to obtain the means of supplying these destitute people with food; and the Relief Committee have just finished their local exertions to raise funds, but which have not been sufficient to realize as much as free themselves from debt. In these critical circumstances we most earnestly entreat that Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to advise us what course we ought to adopt.

We have, &c.

(signed) *John Henderson,* Provost.
*George Todd,* Bailie.
*David Murray,* Bailie.
*John Smith,* Bailie.
*Robert Paton,* Bailie.

Sir James Graham, Bart., &c. &c.

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## LXV.—ANSWER from Sir James Graham to the foregoing Letter.

Gentlemen, Whitehall, 21 January 1843.

Public peace.

I am directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant.

Sir James Graham has heard with great regret that the public peace has been so seriously threatened in the town of Paisley; but he is not surprised at this, knowing the many inflammatory placards and addresses which have been issued lately from the local press. Some passages in one of the public papers (the Renfrewshire Reformer, of 12th January) are expressed in such violent language, Sir James Graham has deemed it advisable to lay them before the law officers of the Crown for Scotland for their opinion.

I am to inform you further, that Sir James Graham has written to the Sheriff of Renfrewshire, calling upon him to take all necessary measures for the security of the peace of the county; and he expects from you, as Provost, and from the civil authorities of Paisley, a faithful and zealous discharge of your duty in the preservation of the peace of the town of Paisley.

I am, &c.

The Provost and Bailies of Paisley. (signed) *H. Manners Sutton.*

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The following is a STATISTICAL ACCOUNT of the SCHOOLS in PAISLEY for Educating the Unemployed,—3 March 1842.

| SCHOOLS. | SPELL-BOOKS. | | | | | TESTAMENTS. | | | | | BIBLES. | | | | | WRITING. | | | | | ARITHMETIC. | | | | Grand Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Boys. | Girls. | Age. | Average. | Total. | Boys. | Girls. | Age. | Average. | Total. | Boys. | Girls. | Age. | Average. | Total. | Boys. | Girls. | Age. | Average. | Total. | Boys. | Age. | Average. | Total. | |
| Baptist Church - - | 66 | 72 | 5 to 12 | 8 | 138 | 44 | 18 | 6 to 14 | 9½ | 62 | 64 | 3 | 8 to 18 | 12 | 67 | 48 | 1 | 9 to 18 | 13 | 49 | 22 | 9 to 18 | 13 | 22 | 267 |
| Carbrook-street - - | 10 | 15 | 6 „ 10 | 7 | 25 | 6 | 4 | 7 „ 11 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 8 „ 13 | 9½ | 15 | – | 20 | 10 „ 17 | 14 | 20 | – | – – | – – | – | 50 |
| Carriagehill - - - | 20 | 16 | 4 „ 10 | 7 | 36 | 28 | 20 | 6 „ 12 | 9 | 48 | 14 | 10 | 8 „ 12 | 10 | 24 | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – – | – – | – | 108 |
| Charleston - - - | 29 | 27 | 4 „ 10 | 7 | 56 | 14 | 20 | 7 „ 12 | 9 | 34 | 12 | 10 | 9 „ 14 | 11 | 22 | 7 | 6 | 10 „ 14 | 11 | 13 | – | – – | – – | – | 112 |
| Cross-street - - - | 14 | 13 | 6 „ 10 | 8½ | 27 | 20 | 46 | 8 „ 15 | 11 | 66 | 11 | – | 9 „ 15 | 11 | 11 | 20 | 15 | 10 „ 20 | 14 | 35 | – | – – | – – | – | 121 |
| Dovesland - - - | 22 | 25 | 5 „ 14 | 8 | 27 | 8 | 11 | 6 „ 14 | 10 | 19 | – | – | – – | – – | – | 6 | 4 | 9 „ 14 | 11 | 10 | – | – – | – – | – | 66 |
| Gilmour-street - - - | 27 | 20 | 6 „ 13 | 10 | 47 | 34 | 15 | 9 „ 16 | 12 | 39 | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – – | – – | – | 39 |
| Maxwellton - - - | 70 | 52 | 6 „ 14 | 11 | 122 | 26 | 20 | 9 „ 15 | 13 | 46 | 34 | 12 | 8 „ 17 | 14 | 46 | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – – | – – | – | 214 |
| Methodist Church - - | 14 | 7 | 4 „ 12 | 7 | 21 | 15 | 1 | 8 „ 16 | 9 | 16 | 14 | – | 9 „ 14 | 11 | 14 | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – – | – – | – | 51 |
| North Church - - - | 10 | 28 | 5 „ 10 | 7 | 38 | 14 | 13 | 10 „ 14 | 12 | 27 | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – – | – – | – | 65 |
| Old Low Church - - | 24 | – | 6 „ 12 | 8 | 24 | 32 | – | 7 „ 14 | 10 | 32 | 30 | – | 8 „ 16 | 12 | 30 | 24 | – | 10 „ 14 | 12 | 24 | – | – – | – – | – | 86 |
| Philosophical Hall - - | – | 129 | 6 „ 17 | 9 | 129 | – | 66 | 7 „ 14 | 14 | 66 | – | 23 | 8 „ 17 | 13½ | 23 | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – – | – – | – | 218 |
| Presbytery House - - | – | 56 | 5 „ 10 | 8 | 56 | – | 74 | 10 „ 17 | 13 | 74 | – | 34 | 11 „ 18 | 14½ | 34 | – | 24 | 11 „ 18 | 15 | 24 | – | – – | – – | – | 164 |
| St. Mirren's-street - - | – | 60 | 5 „ 12 | 8 | 60 | – | 35 | 6 „ 15 | 10 | 35 | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | 18 | 10 „ 15 | 12 | 18 | – | – – | – – | – | 95 |
| Secession Hall - - - | 60 | – | 5 „ 13 | 9 | 60 | 33 | – | 8 „ 15 | 11 | 33 | 29 | – | 8 „ 16 | 12 | 29 | 49 | – | 8 „ 16 | 12 | 49 | – | – – | – – | – | 122 |
| South Croft-street - - | 59 | 18 | 7 „ 14 | 9 | 77 | 21 | 9 | 7 „ 16 | 11 | 30 | 34 | 7 | 8 „ 16 | 13 | 41 | 32 | 18 | 9 „ 20 | 16 | 50 | – | – – | – – | – | 174 |
| Underwood - - - | 20 | 7 | 5 „ 15 | 8 | 27 | 11 | 11 | 6 „ 13 | 10 | 22 | 9 | 7 | 6 „ 17 | 11 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 6 „ 17 | 12 | 18 | – | – – | – – | – | 65 |
| Ferguslie - - - - | 20 | 16 | 7 „ 7 | 6 | 36 | 14 | 11 | 6 „ 10 | 9 | 25 | 20 | 18 | 8 „ 12 | 10 | 38 | 14 | 11 | 8 „ 12 | 11 | 25 | – | – – | – – | – | 99 |
| Williamsburgh - - - | 26 | 22 | 6 „ 9 | 8 | 48 | 8 | 8 | 8 „ 12 | 10 | 16 | 10 | 8 | 9 „ 13 | 11 | 18 | 13 | 5 | 10 „ 13 | 12 | 18 | – | – – | – – | – | 82 |
| New Sneddon-street - - | 70 | 77 | 6 „ 10 | 8 | 147 | 34 | 25 | 7 „ 14 | 9½ | 59 | 40 | 9 | 7 „ 15 | 12 | 49 | – | – | – – | – – | – | – | – – | – – | – | 255 |
| Trades Hall - - - | 43 | 52 | 6 „ 12 | 9 | 95 | 35 | 28 | 10 „ 14 | 12 | 63 | 27 | 10 | 10 „ 14 | 12 | 37 | 30 | 20 | 9 „ 15 | 10 | 50 | – | – – | – – | – | 195 |
| Unitarian Church - - | 48 | 60 | 6 „ 12 | 8½ | 108 | 21 | 30 | 8 „ 16 | 10½ | 51 | 16 | – | 9 „ 16 | 12 | 16 | 14 | 6 | 9 „ 16 | 13 | 20 | – | – – | – – | – | 175 |
| West-street - - - | 14 | 10 | 4 „ 7 | 6 | 24 | 7 | 5 | 6 „ 13 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 8 „ 12 | 9 | 19 | 6 | 3 | 9 „ 12 | 10 | 9 | – | – – | – – | – | 55 |
| Storie-street - - - | 7 | 7 | 6 „ 10 | 7½ | 14 | 9 | 7 | 7 „ 11 | 8 | 16 | 7 | 5 | 8 „ 12 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 8 „ 12 | 9 | 10 | – | – – | – – | – | 42 |
| | 673 | 789 | — | — | 1,462 | 424 | 477 | — | — | 901 | 389 | 172 | — | — | 561 | 278 | 164 | — | — | 442 | 22 | — | — | 22 | 2,920 |

| | ENG. GRAM. | WRITING. | | | | | ARITHMETIC. | | | Grand Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Males. | Males. | Girls. | Age. | Average. | Total. | Males. | Age. | Total. | |
| Baptist School Normal Class - | 8 | 36 | 2 | 12 to 40 | 25 | 38 | 30 | 12 to 40 | 30 | 38 |
| Carbrook-street - ditto - - | - - | - - | 20 | 14 „ 18 | 16 | 20 | - - | - - | - - | 20 |

These Normal Classes are chiefly designed for training Teachers.

*N. B.*—Besides the above, there are 317 Pupils in Hutcheson's Charity School, who are taught Reading, English Grammar, Geography, History, Writing and Arithmetic. In consequence of the stagnation of trade, this number is about 100 beyond the ordinary average; but at all times this School affords an excellent education to the children of the poorer classes. It is supported by a moderate endowment, so that the benefits of it are extended gratuitously to the members of the community, without regard to religious denomination.

Appendix, No. 4.

## Appendix, No. 4.

LETTER from Baillie *Murray* to the Chairman of the Committee.

Paisley, 9 March 1843.

Sir,

Road Metal. I NOW beg to inform you that the road metal on hand belonging to the Paisley Relief Committee is 800 yards; at 2*s.* per yard, 80*l.*

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

*David Murray.*

Robert Wallace, Esq., M. P.,
London.

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SCHEDULE for Persons Unemployed, and applying for Relief.

County Buildings, Paisley, 1842.

| Names of Claimant, and of his Wife and each of his Children, in so far as living in Family with him. | Age of each. | Native of what Place, &c. | How long resident in Paisley. | Place of Abode. | | Length of Residence there. | Occupation. | Last Employer's Name and Residence. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | No. | Street. | | | |
| Self— | | Kingdom. | | | | | | * |
| Wife— | | County. | | | | | | |
| Children— | | Parish. | | | | | | |

| Four Weeks' Average Amount of his Earnings when last employed. | Four Weeks' Average Amount of Wife's Earnings when last employed. | Four Weeks' Average Amount of Children's Earnings when last employed. | Present Amount of his own Earnings, or Supply of every Description. | Present Amount of those of Wife and Family, of every Description. | Date at which thrown out of Employment, and from what Cause. | State of Family as to Health. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| * | | | | | Date. | |
| | | | *N. B.*—Any concealment of the truth, however small, will be sufficient to deprive the Claimant of any relief. | | Cause. | |

[New SCHEDULE as amended, in reference to the above, November 1842.]

CERTIFICATE by Minister, Elder or other well-known and respectable Householder.

I CERTIFY, that I have read the statements given in this Schedule; that the Claimant is personally known to me; and that I sincerely believe the within statements are true; and that the Claimant is sober and industrious. Given under my hand, at Paisley, the day of

*N. B.*—The Subscriber to add his Occupation and Residence to his Signature.

CERTIFICATE by the last Employer of Claimant.

I CERTIFY, that the Claimant was employed by me as within stated; that I believe the Schedule, as filled up, to state the truth; and I further certify that I believe him to be sober, industrious and honest. Given under my hand, at Paisley, the day of

*N. B.*—The Subscriber to add his Designation and Residence to his Signature.

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## Appendix, No. 5.



LETTER from Mr. *David Murray* to *Robert Wallace*, Esq., M.P., London.

Dear Sir,

Paisley, 11 March 1843.

I HAVE received your Letter of the 8th current, and I now send you enclosed an Abstract Statement of the numbers on the Paisley Relief List for the week ending 7th current, showing also the rates of payment and the total expense. You wish also a statement of those who are receiving *partial* relief, but whose names are *not on the List.* There are none such. All who receive partial supply are put upon the List for *the week in which the supply is given*; and you will find that in the week, the statement for which is now sent, there are 191 who have received occasional relief, with an equal number of dependents. These 191 are partly made up of persons who had gone off the List in hope of getting work, but who have to a certain extent been disappointed—of those who under no circumstances would have been placed on the regular List—of weavers who are putting up webs, and who require a little temporary aid,—and of some respectable and deserving individuals who are in needy circumstances, but who do not wish to be placed on the roll. (1293-4. 1297-8. 1301-3. 1349-51.)

I understood your request to apply specially to those who are receiving partial supply from the Relief Committee, and not from private sources. I have no means of knowing the numbers who may be in receipt of relief from private sources.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

*David Murray.*

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ABSTRACT STATEMENT of the Expenditure of the PAISLEY RELIEF FUND, and the Numbers on the Relief List, with their Dependents, for the Week ending 7 March 1843.

| | | Amount in Money. | Amount in Kind. | TOTAL. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £. s. d. | £. s. d. | £. s. d. |
| 14 | Single men - - - - at 1 6 | – 4 8 | – 16 4 | 1 1 – |
| 49 | Man and wife - - - at 2 – | 1 – 5 | 3 17 7 | 4 18 – |
| 41 | Ditto - ditto and 1 child - at 2 3 | – 17 1 | 3 15 2 | 4 12 3 |
| 47 | Ditto - ditto and 2 children at 2 7 | 1 3 6 | 4 17 11 | 6 1 5 |
| 42 | Ditto - ditto and 3 ditto - at 2 10 | 1 4 6 | 4 14 6 | 5 19 – |
| 25 | Ditto - ditto and 4 ditto - at 3 1 | – 16 8 | 3 – 5 | 3 17 1 |
| 18 | Ditto - ditto and 5 ditto - at 3 5 | – 13 6 | 2 8 – | 3 1 6 |
| 5 | Ditto - ditto and 6 ditto - at 3 8 | – 3 9 | – 14 7 | – 18 4 |
| 3 | Ditto - ditto and 7 ditto - at 4 – | – 2 6 | – 9 6 | – 12 – |
| 244 | Men. | | | |
| 732 | Their dependents. | | | |
| 1,307 | Females - - - - - - | - - - | 102 10 2½ | |
| 1,544 | Their dependents. | | | |
| 90 | Men excused from labour - - - | - - - | 9 13 6 | |
| 143 | Their dependents. | | | |
| *191 | Occasional relief, &c. - - - | - - - | 29 18 3 | |
| *191 | Their dependents. | | | 142 1 11½ |
| | Clerks, visitors, store-keepers, and store-house rents - - - - | 8 19 6 | | |
| | Individuals employed in soup-kitchen | 1 19 – | | |
| | | | - - - | 10 18 6 |
| 4,442 | in all. | | £. | 184 1 –½ |

*William Burnside*, Clerk.

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2. *Funds placed at their disposal.*
3. *Relief afforded by the Committee to the distressed and destitute of Paisley.*
4. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

1. *Formation and Constitution of the Committee.*

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*Rental* (*Paisley*). Gross rental of the town of Paisley within the Parliamentary boundaries; rates to which this is subject; amount of the police rental, *Henderson* 723–730.

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*Tickets.* Opinion of the clergy as to tickets being preferable to stores, *Henderson,* 668——Impossibility of acting strictly upon the ticket system, *ib.* 787–789——Information as to the system of tickets, and its operation; the persons to whom they were given could go to any shopkeeper they pleased, *ib.* 855–862——Advantage to the Charitable Fund in adopting the system of tickets, as compared with the store system, *ib.* 863, 864——Use made of the tickets, by persons to whom they were distributed, in getting spirits, or sometimes money, in exchange for them; considerable numbers of those on the Relief List were seen drunk in the streets; practice in this respect under the store system, *Campbell* 940–952——Reason for the ticket system being popular, and the change to the stores so unpopular, *ib.* 953–957——A great objection to the ticket system was the notorious fraud practised by every one; the order was given for domestic articles, and that was a passport for getting anything, *ib.* 966.

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# DISTRESS (BOLTON.)

RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 10 February 1842;—*for*,

COPIES of any COMMUNICATIONS addressed from *Bolton* to the HOME OFFICE, during the late Recess, on the Subject of Mr. *Mott*'s Report; together with any Reports presented by Mr. *Mott* in Answer to such Communications.

Whitehall, 1 March 1842.

S. M. PHILLIPPS.

*Ordered, by* The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 3 *March* 1842.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM, BART.

HAVE taken the liberty of sending the depositions of witnesses of three cases referred to by Dr. Bowring, in the House of Commons, on the 24th of August last; shall request him to move for these documents when Parliament re-assembles, in order that they may be printed and circulated through the same channel as Mr. Mott's partial and unfounded Report was. I trust you will have no objection to this course, as your object no doubt was, that he should have taken those evidences along with those he did take.

Yours, &c.

Bolton, 15 December 1841. (signed) *Wm. Naisby.*

EXAMINATION of Witnesses, taken the 16th day of October 1841, taken with respect to *Kirkman*'s Case, when 16 People were residing in a House 4½ Yards square.

*Ann Kirkman*, wife of John Kirkman, labourer and brickmaker, Slater-fields, Bolton:—About a year and a half ago I lived at the Willows, in Bolton; we were sold up there for rent. After we were sold up we removed to Robert Kirkman's, my husband's father's house, near Daubhill Bar. At this time there was my husband, and self, and five children. There were two other brothers in the same house, one with a wife and three children, and the other with a wife and one child; every one of us were out of work at the time. There were also the father and mother of my husband residing with us, making in the whole 17 residing in the house, which was about four yards square; we all slept in the room above, which was the same size. I recollect Mr. Naisby coming to the house, and requesting either me or my husband to come down to the guardian meeting on the Friday following. My husband went to the guardian meeting accordingly, and we had a bed, and a few household requisites, and some money, given us, and we then removed to Fitton's houses.

her
*Ann + Kirkman,*
mark.

After Ann Kirkman had made the above depositions she turned from the table as if to go away; but immediately turned round, and bursting into tears, told Mr. Naisby that there were 13 of their family at home who had not broken their fasts to-day, and were now starving.

(signed) *H. M. Richardson.*

EXAMINATION of Witnesses, taken the 16th day of October 1841, respecting the Death of *William Peace*, who died on the 23d day of February 1840, in *Howell-croft, Great Bolton.*

*Thomas Bradshaw* deposes as follows:—I was elected relieving officer to the Relief Fund Society on the 22d of February last year. On the Sunday following my appointment to such office, I was waited on by Mr. Coop, combmaker, of Great Bolton, who stated that a man residing near his house was starving to death; this would be about eight o'clock in the evening. Mr. Coop requested that I would immediately go and see him; I did so, and when I got to the place alluded to by Mr. Coop, I found Mrs. Coop there, and the man dead. I was informed he had been dead about a quarter of an hour; I felt the corpse, and it was still warm. I noticed the cellar to be in a very wretched state; through the wall of the back part of the cellar I perceived dirty, filthy water oozing through the crevices of the bricks, which I afterwards found proceeded from a midding-stead adjoining the cellar. There was a nauseous smell, and which I considered very unhealthy; all the furniture in the cellar was a small three-legged table, an old chair with scarcely any bottom, and a three-legged stool, such as children use, There was a small bedstead, on which was placed some sacking containing shavings; the shavings were quite visible through the sacking; there was no covering, the bed was quite wet with damp, and stank with filth; so much so, that I gave orders for it to be burned, which I believe was done after deceased was buried; the corpse of Peace lay out on a loom without any covering, but Mrs. Coop lent them a pair of sheets. The value of the furniture altogether, I should consider, would not fetch 2 *s.* if sold. I asked the woman and her daughters whether they had any food; they said, they had not tasted any that day. I went to my house and brought them a quantity of broth, which they all devoured very voraciously.

I was in the cellar whilst they partook of it, and one of the daughters immediately after she had taken it began to vomit very much, which I attributed to an excess of appetite, and being kept without food so long previously.

I may add, that previously to partaking of the broth, they began to quarrel amongst themselves which had the greatest portion.

I reported the case, and they were duly relieved. On the Tuesday following the committee sat, and they were ordered to be relieved. I now refer to the book in which "distressed cases" are entered, and I find that they were relieved with a grant of 3 *s.* per week, and the following entry, "Peace, Helen, widow, Howell-croft, to receive 3 *s.* per week for an unlimited period;" and the following entry in the remarks, "Husband supposed to have died from want." I inquired into the earnings of the whole family, and found they did not exceed 3 *s.* per week. I have since, several times, visited the old woman, Helen Peace, and find that she is of very weak intellect, and any statement she might make not fit to be taken as evidence; and her daughters are the same: it appears that a dulness of intellect afflicts the whole family. I went to the coroner's inquest for the purpose of giving evidence, but not being called upon, I did not do so. Had my evidence been taken, I do not know how the jury could have done otherwise than returned a verdict that the deceased died from want.

Taken before me,

*Thomas Bradshaw.*

*James Webster* says:—I am town missionary at Bolton. My duty is to visit cases of sickness and distress. On Monday the 24th of February last but one, from information I had received that a man had died from want in Howell-croft, I went there, and made inquiry; the cellar of the deceased was pointed out to me, and on entering, I saw the deceased dead and laid out on his loom. I found the whole of the household requisites to consist of a small three-legged table, a chair, almost without a bottom, a stool, and a bed, with some sacking on, the whole of which were worthless, not worth carrying away; the bed was very filthy. I reported the case to the Benevolent Society, who gave the family 5 *s.* I have seen the entry made in the Benevolent Society's book, and find Peace's case is entered, "Died from want of food," and this was my full impression immediately after I had examined into the case. On inquiry into their earnings, I found they did not exceed 3 *s.* per week. I have frequently visited and relieved the case since, and I consider them all, that is, the old woman, Mrs. Peace, and her two daughters,

to

to be of such very weak intellect that it approximates very closely to insanity, and that they are totally incapable of giving evidence that could be depended upon. Whenever I have conversed with them, I have always left them fully impressed that they were labouring strongly under a degree of insanity.

(signed) *James Webster.*

*Nancy Beswick*, wife of Henry Beswick, weaver, Lever-street, Great Bolton :— I knew Peace before he died for four years, and his family also. About three weeks previous to the death of Peace, I stood against my own door-step, and saw Peace coming towards my house; there are three steps up to my house; he looked very wan, and pale as death, and was so weakly that to get on to my house floor he had to go down on his hands and knees, and creep up; he had been in the habit of weaving for us some months before, and I had missed him for a month about, on the day I am speaking of. When he got in he said, "Nancy, do, bless you, make me a sup of warm tea, for I am dying for want." I made him some tea and a little toast, and he devoured it very greedily; when he had done it, he told me all that he had for three or four weeks back; he had had nothing but a basin of gruel per day to subsist upon; in about a quarter of an hour after the old man had had the tea he was seized with sickness, and I had to obtain the assistance of neighbours, for I thought he was dying; we reared him up in chairs with pillows, and in about three quarters of an hour he came round; I then asked why he clammed himself to that degree, and he stated that as he did not belong to Bolton he could not get relief; he pulled up his trousers and showed me his legs, and they appeared nothing but skin and bone, and it was frightful to see him; he was taken home by my husband, and I and his wife went to the overseers' office to represent the case to them; we saw Bridge, the assistant to the relieving-officer, and told him the case, and he was very saucy, and said we had better mind our own business; I gave in the name of Peace to the officer myself, for although his wife was present when the officer asked her husband's name, she could not tell, and desired me to do so; the officer said he would visit the case, but whether he ever did so or not I never ascertained, and I never heard anything more until about three weeks afterwards, which was, that he was dead; I heard this the same night that he died, and went to the cellar; I there found them in a most shocking state, and the cellar smelled so very much that I could not remain in it; he was laid out on the loom, with a sheet over him. I noticed in the back cellar there was a sewer or midding channel ran through, and the floor was covered with nauseous filth and water. All the goods in the house was a broken three-legged table, a stool, chair, and the bed, made of sacking, without covering. I went again on the Monday morning, and turned down the sheet to look at the corpse, and there were hundreds of creeping filth upon him. I pointed the filth out to his wife, and she appeared to be quite vacant. The daughters asked me to get them some light dresses, and shawls with purple spots in, as they were like to go to the funeral of the old man. They did not call him their father. They laughed, and appeared to be entirely out of their senses, and each of them had nothing wherewith to clothe them but canvas wrappering, without shoes, stockings, or wearing apparel of any description. There was no warp in the looms, but they stated that Messrs. Goodbrand had sent them some a week before, but they had sent for it back for fear the bailiffs should seize it. Before the inquest went over Peace, I was warned by a policeman to go and give evidence before the jury at two o'clock. I went to the Britannia Inn, where the jury was sitting, but was not called upon. I went precisely at two o'clock, but on going into the house the landlord told me that it was all over, and the old woman, Peace's wife, was coming out at the door. Had I been called upon before the jury, as I expected I should have been, I am sure I should have proved that to my knowledge he had died from want of food. When the old woman was coming out of the house, the man that showed her out said, "Well, mistress, go home, and take care that you don't die for want; look after something before you come to this, because you seem to have a dismal face." As I have stated before, I have known all the family for four years, and I always considered them not to be right in their minds. I have visited the family since the death of Peace, and the old woman has often asked me if I know what they are going to do with her, because several fellows had questioned her, and inquired after her. I told her, I believed they did not intend to do anything with her, and

she had no occasion to be frightened. She talked very irrationally, and said that she believed they wanted to send her somewhere, but that she would not go, but could remain where she was. She appeared suspicious that some harm was meant towards her.

her
*Nancy* + *Beswick*,
mark.

*William Coop*, of Great Bolton, combmaker, saith :—At the time of the death of Peace I was residing in the immediate neighbourhood, and had known the family well for some time previously; the first time that I had any acquaintance with him he called to beg an old pair of shoes; I told him I gave my old clothes to my apprentice's father, who, I said, was in great distress; he replied, if they were as badly off as he was, God help them, for neither he nor any of his family had tasted food since yesterday: on questioning him, I found him in a state of starvation; I went into the cellar and found him in the greatest distress; there was only one bedstead for himself, wife, and two daughters; no bed-covering; they were forced to sleep in their clothes; the seats they sat upon were bricks and stones before I gave them two old stools to sit upon; this was about six months before he died; he died on Sunday; his wife came and stated that she believed her husband had given over stirring; I went, and found him dead; I went to the relieving-officer for the Relief Fund Committee (Mr. Bradshaw), and brought him down; he was laid out on a pair of looms, and my mistress found a sheet to lay over him; when it was returned, after Peace had been buried, we were forced to burn it, on account of there being hundreds of filth upon it. I have seen Peace pick potatoes off the midding, which had been thrown away, being rotten, and afterwards have gone into the cellar and found them boiled up, and they were eating them for dinner; there was no deceit in this, for I have gone frequently into the cellar when they were not aware of my coming; it is my firm opinion that Peace died from nothing but starvation; I consider all the family of the Peaces to be to a great degree insane, and quite incompetent to give evidence; she has, to my knowledge, although I know her to be in the most abject state of poverty, often stated she wants for nothing, and is fearful she will be sent to the workhouse if she complains; she has told me, many a time, since her husband's death, that she shall fetch me if they offer to take her out of the cellar, and hopes I will protect her; her aversion to going into the workhouse, I am certain, would make her say and do anything to avoid going there.

(signed) *William Coop.*

I, *Henry Richardson*, do make oath, that on the 16th day of October 1841, the foregoing parties' examinations were taken before me, fairly and fully, as delivered by them, and that I wrote the same down as delivered by the same parties who have signed the same, as witness my hand the day and year aforesaid.

(signed) *H. M. Richardson.*

Sworn before us,
*Robert Heywood*,
*C. J. Darbishire*,
*Henry Ashworth*,
Justices of the Peace for the said Borough.

I have seen Mr. Stockdale's book, belonging to the Benevolent Society, and I find the following extract :—" Peace, Ellen, widow; husband died from want of food."

(signed) *H. M. Richardson.*

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The Examination of *Richard Dunderdale*, taken the 18th day of October 1841.

*Richard Dunderdale*, of Great Bolton, tea-dealer, says :—I was one of the overseers of the poor at the time of the death of Peace; I recollect going with Mr. Naisby to the cellar at the time that Peace lay dead on a pair of looms. From what

what I saw and heard from the old woman and her two daughters, I feel convinced the old man died from want; the old woman and her daughters appeared to be of very weak intellect.

(signed) *Richard Dunderdale.*

*Henry Richardson.*

I solemnly declare the above to be a true statement of Mr. Dunderdale's evidence.

(signed) *H. M. Richardson.*

Taken before me,

*C. S. Darbishire.*

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EXAMINATION of Witnesses, taken the 16th day of October 1841, respecting the Death of *William Bristol*, who died about two years since.

*Charles Skelton* says:—I recollect about two years ago Mr. Naisby calling upon me to visit the case of Bristol; on getting into the house, we inquired of the woman where her husband was, not knowing that he was dead; she stated, that he was up stairs; Mr. Naisby replied "I want to see him," and she then said "he is dead." Mr. Naisby then went up stairs, and looked at him. The woman had a very bad leg, and was quite unable to walk; there were two children laying in a corner of the house, on a bit of straw placed on the flags; one child was very much afflicted with the St. Anthony's fire, and all the other children were very ill and sickly. I asked Bristol's wife what food he had had lately, and she then stated, that her husband had asked the day before he died for a bit of cheese and bread, but that she was unable to procure him any. An old woman, a neighbour, stated, that Bristol had been clammed to death.

(signed) *Charles Skelton.*

*Ann Bristol* says:—My husband died about two years ago; I recollect, when he was laid out dead, Mr. Naisby then coming to visit us; my husband was laid out on the necessary door up stairs, covered over with a sheet which a neighbour had lent us. I was lame myself at the time, and could not walk; my child was blind at the time, having the Saint Anthony's fire; she was then nearly 16 years of age. I had another daughter very ill also, aged about 13 years. I had four other children besides, the eldest of which was nearly 18 years, the next nine years of age, the next seven years of age, and the other four years old; altogether, I had six children. For three weeks previous to my husband's death, we had nothing but 3 *s.* per week coming in, and we had to live sometimes on potatoes, sometimes on porridge, but had only one meal a day, which we generally made about four o'clock in the afternoon; I think it was for a fortnight we had to confine ourselves to one meal for a day, sometimes having porridge, and sometimes potatoes. When Mr. Naisby found us in this state, we got more food, otherwise I believe I should have lost more of my children, for we had got as far distressed as we well could be to be alive. About five months previous to my husband's death, I had a child sucking, which died, and I feel sure that its death was occasioned by my not being able to give it suck, for want of sustenance. I had no bed, bedding, or anything whereon to lay when Mr. Naisby visited us. I had only a stool whereon to sit for myself; I had no shop where I could get provisions at; they all refused to give me credit. My husband wished for a bit of cheese and bread the day before he died, but I was unable to procure him any.

her
*Ann + Bristol,*
mark.

*Betty Brown* says:—I knew the last witness's husband previous to his death; also all the family for about two years. At the time of the death of Bristol, I laid him out on the top of a necessary door; I assisted to undress him, he having died with his clothes on, in which he had lain for many weeks, having nothing besides to keep him warm; when I cut his trousers legs and stocking legs open, there were large quantities of creeping filth which had eaten quite into the flesh, and his legs were nothing but putrid flesh and scabs; he had nothing but straw to lay upon, which

which was spread on the floor; one of her children had the Saint Anthony's fire, and the rest were all more or less very sickly and bad; they all slept together in one room; and the wife of Bristol had a great hole in her leg, and could not walk or assist her husband; but after she had received relief, and had got bedding, she began to come round. I recollect Mr. Naisby coming down when Bristol was laid out on the necessary door, and I then told him the man had died for want, and I know such to be the case.

her
*Betty + Brown,*
mark.

*Mary Ann Grimshaw* says:—I recollect going in to see Bristol about two hours before he died; I found him laid on a bit of straw without anything in the room; his wife laid beside him with her back towards him; she had a hole in her leg and could not stand. He had his eyes open, and was quite sensible; he was shaking as if he had got the ague. I said, "James, how are you?" and he replied in a weakly and hollow voice, "I am very bad." He died about two hours afterwards; from what I knew of the family for some weeks before, I am certain he died from starvation.

her
*Mary Ann + Grimshaw,*
mark.

*Joseph Reynolds Wood,* of Great Bolton, shopkeeper, says:—I was a guardian at the time of Bristol's death, and recollect the case being brought before the Board of Guardians, and Mr. Naisby remarked to Mr. Benjamin Brown, the relieving officer, who was then present, "Why, that poor fellow has died from want, Brown," to which Brown made answer, "Yes, I believe he has."

(signed) *Joseph R. Wood.*

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EVIDENCE of Witnesses in the Cases of *William Pearce* and *James Bristol,* who died at *Bolton* from want of Food; also on the General Distress in that Town; with Remarks on that subject, and on the Assistant Poor-Law Commissioner's Report.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

IN presenting to the public the following pages, allow me, with as much brevity as possible, to offer the following observations; also, to republish Dr. Bowring's statement made in the House of Commons; that the public may see, and be convinced that instead of the three cases being over-stated, they were very much under-stated. I shall also republish the evidence as given in Mr. Mott's report, in the case of William Pearce; the public will then see what an assistant poor law commissioner calls "comfortable living" in Bolton.

It will also be seen that Mr. Mott was very careful not to examine any witnesses whose evidence was likely to show the real cause of these deaths, although he had been frequently requested to do so. He keeps to the old woman, although he knows she is little better than an idiot; and if one of his own witnesses did happen to slip a word likely to alarm his employers, he has taken care not to insert it in his report. For instance, I requested the clerk of the board of guardians to read to the relieving officer that part of the letter I sent to him, which contained an account of the state we found the family in when we visited them, and of which Dr. Bowring's statement in the House of Commons was a verbatim copy. I then put the following questions to the relieving officer in the presence of Mr. Mott: First, "Was that the state we found the family in when we visited them?" His answer was, "Precisely so." Second, "Was it your opinion at the time that the man died from want?" Answer, "That is still my opinion." This occurrence does not appear in Mr. Brown's evidence, as given in Mr. Mott's report. The whole of his report is got up in the same way, and will serve for something to be pointed at at all times to show that Government commissions are not intended to elicit truth, put to serve a party and special purpose.

With respect to Mr. Mott's remarks about the Anti-Corn Law League and politics, they are scarce worth notice. However, I may just observe that all these

cases

cases were visited by me some time previous to any meeting being held in Bolton under the sanction of the League. At the first meeting that was held, I made a long speech in reference to the distress then existing in Bolton, a part of which was reported in several of the London and provincial newspapers. A few days previous to the election, when politics were running very high, I made a speech in the Temperance-hall, again alluding to the distress in Bolton; but on neither occasion did I allude to any of these cases. This proves that I did not visit the cases for the sake of serving the League, or for any political purpose; indeed, I never intended making any use of them, for I was convinced, whilst I was a guardian, from what I saw at the board, and by visiting the poor, that deaths were occurring nearly every week in Bolton for want of the necessaries of life, or, perhaps, more properly speaking, from sickness produced by want, and ending in death, which amounts to the same thing.

It will be seen by the evidence that the whole of the cases mentioned by Dr. Bowring are fully borne out by respectable witnesses, and that a verdict ought to have been recorded, both in the case of William Pearce and James Bristol: but they were very poor, and must die, like dogs, unnoticed. Respecting the recording of the verdict in the case of William Pearce, I may just mention that one of the jury called upon me the day the inquest was held, knowing I had taken an active part in getting an inquest over the body, and stated they had returned a verdict, "Died from want of food," and as a proof that that was the impression of the jury, Mr. Staton, reporter for the *Chronicle*, who was one of the jury, stated at the guardian meeting on Friday, the 10th September last, in reply to a question from a guardian, "That he was on the jury, and they returned a verdict of 'Died from want of food.'" This proves that the jury were of that opinion, whether the coroner recorded the verdict or not. Of course I made no further inquiry into the matter; it was so notorious at the time that no one ever thought of disputing that the man had died from want.

Mr. Mott was apprised of and requested to attend the examination of these witnesses; but, to my surprise, instead of his attending, I received a letter from him, dated Friday, the 15th instant, in which he states, "that in accordance with the instructions I received, I made inquiries into the circumstances stated to have occurred, and, having reported the result to the Poor Law Commissioners, I have received no directions to take any further proceedings." This proves that Mr. Mott's employers are well satisfied with what he has done, for a petition was sent by me to the House of Commons, stating that his report was a partial and unfair one, and praying for a full and fair inquiry. The petition was ordered to be printed, yet it appears he has received no instructions to make a further investigation.

(signed) *W. Naisby.*

Bolton, 18 October 1841.

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EXAMINATION of Witnesses, taken the 16th day of October 1841, respecting the Death of *William Bristol*, who died about two years ago.

*Charles Skelton* says:—I recollect, about two years ago, Mr. Naisby calling upon me to visit the case of Bristol. On getting into the house, we inquired of the woman where her husband was, not knowing that he was dead. She stated that he was up stairs. Mr. Naisby replied, "I want to see him;" and she then said, "He is dead." Mr. Naisby then went up stairs, and looked at him. The woman had a very bad leg, and was quite unable to walk. There were two children lying in the corner of the house, on a bit of straw placed on the flags; one child was very much afflicted with the St. Anthony's fire, and all the other children were very ill and sickly. I asked Bristol's wife what food he had had lately, and she then stated that her husband had asked, the day before he died, for a bit of cheese and bread, but that she was unable to procure him any. An old woman, a neighbour, stated that Bristol had been "clammed to death."

(signed) *Charles Skelton.*

*Ann Bristol* says:—My husband died about two years ago. I recollect, when he was laid out dead, Mr. Naisby then coming to visit us. My husband was laid out on the necessary door, up stairs, covered over with a sheet, which a neighbour had

lent us. I was lame myself at the time, and could not walk. My child was blind at the time, having the St. Anthony's fire; she was then nearly 16 years of age. I had another daughter very ill also, aged about 13 years. I had four other children besides, the eldest of which was nearly 18 years of age, the next nine years of age, the next seven years of age, and the other four years old; altogether I had six children. For three weeks previous to my husband's death we had nothing but 3 *s.* per week coming in; and we had to live sometimes on potatoes, sometimes on porridge; but had only one meal a day, which we generally made about four o'clock in the afternoon. I think it was for a fortnight that we had to confine ourselves to one meal a day, sometimes having porridge, and sometimes potatoes. When Mr. Naisby found us in this state we got more food, otherwise I believe I should have lost more of my children, for we had got as far distressed as we well could be to be alive. About five months previous to my husband's death I had a child sucking, which died; and I feel sure that its death was occasioned by my not being able to give it suck, for want of sustenance. I had no bed, bedding, or anything whereon to lay, when Mr. Naisby visited us; I had only a stool whereon to sit, for myself. I had no shop where I could get provisions at; they all refused to give me credit. My husband wished for a bit of cheese and bread the day before he died, but I was unable to procure him any.

her
*Ann* + *Bristol,*
mark.

*Betty Brown* says:—I knew the last witness's husband previous to his death; also all the family for about two years. At the time of the death of Bristol, I laid him out on the top of a necessary door. I assisted to undress him, he having died with his clothes on, in which he had lain for many weeks, having nothing besides to keep him warm; when I cut his trousers legs and stocking legs open, there were large quantities of creeping filth, which had eaten quite into the flesh, and his legs were nothing but putrid flesh and scabs. He had nothing but straw to lie upon, which was spread on the floor. One of her children had the St. Anthony's fire, and the rest were all more or less very sickly and bad. They all slept together in one room, and the wife of Bristol had a great hole in her leg, and could not walk or assist her husband; but after she had received relief, and had got bedding, she began to come round. I recollect Mr. Naisby coming down, when Bristol was laid out on the necessary door, and I then told him the man had died for want, and I know such to be the case.

her
*Betty* + *Brown,*
mark.

*Mary Ann Grimshaw* says:—I recollect going in to see Bristol about two hours before he died; I found him laid on a bit of straw, without anything in the room; his wife laid beside him, with her back towards him; she had a hole in her leg, and could not stand. He had his eyes open, and was quite sensible; he was shaking as if he had got the ague. I said, "James, how are you?" and he replied, in a weakly and hollow voice, "I am very bad." He died about two hours afterwards. From what I knew of the family for some weeks before, I am certain he died from starvation.

her
*Mary Ann* + *Grimshaw,*
mark.

*Joseph Reynolds Wood*, of Great Bolton, gentleman, says:—I was a guardian at the time of Bristol's death, and recollect the case being brought before the board of guardians, and Mr. Naisby remarking to Mr. Benjamin Brown, the relieving-officer, who was then present, "Why, that poor fellow has died from want, Brown?" to which Brown made answer, "Yes, I believe he has."

(signed) *Joseph R. Wood.*

## KIRKMAN'S CASE.

EXAMINATION of Witnesses, taken the 16th day of October 1841, with respect to Kirkman's Case, where 17 People were residing in a House about four Yards wide.

*Ann Kirkman*, wife of John Kirkman, labourer and bricklayer, Slater-fields, Bolton, says:—About a year and a half ago I lived at the Willows, in Bolton; we were sold up there for rent; after we were sold up we removed to Robert Kirkman's, my husband's father's house, near Daubhill Bar; at this time there was my husband, and myself, and five children; there were two other brothers in the same house, one with a wife and three children, and the other with a wife and one child; every one of us were out of work at the time; there were also the father and mother of my husband residing with us, making in the whole 17 residing in the house, which was about four yards square; we all slept in the room above, which was the same size. I recollect Mr. Naisby coming to the house, and requesting either me or my husband to come down to the guardian meeting on the Friday following; my husband went to the guardian meeting accordingly, and we had a bed and a few household requisites and some money given us, and we then removed to Fitton's houses.

her
*Ann + Kirkman,*
mark.

After Ann Kirkman had made the above deposition she turned from the table as if to go away; but immediately turned round, and, bursting into tears, told Mr. Naisby that there were 13 of their family at home who had not broken their fasts that day, and were now starving.

(signed) *H. M. Richardson.*

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## PEARCE'S CASE.

EXAMINATION of Witnesses, taken the 16th day of October 1841, respecting the Death of *William Pearce*, who died on the 23d day of February 1840, in *Howell-croft, Great Bolton.*

*Thomas Bradshaw* deposes as follows:—I was elected relieving officer to the Relief Fund Society, on the 22d of February last year. On the Sunday following my appointment to such office, I was waited on by Mr. Coop, combmaker, of Great Bolton, who stated, that a man residing near his house was starving to death; this would be about eight o'clock in the evening. Mr. Coop requested that I would immediately go and see him. I did so; and when I got to the place alluded to by Mr. Coop, I found Mrs. Coop there, and the man dead. I was informed he had been dead about a quarter of an hour. I felt the corpse, and it was still warm. I noticed the cellar to be in a very wretched state. Through the wall of the back part of the cellar, I perceived dirty, filthy wate roozing through the crevices of the bricks, which I afterwards found proceeded from a midden-stead adjoining the cellar. There was a nauseous smell, and which I considered very unhealthy. All the furniture in the cellar was a small three-legged table, an old chair with scarcely any bottom, and a three-legged stool, such as children use; there was a small bedstead, on which was placed some sacking containing shavings, the shavings were quite visible through the sacking; there was no covering. The bed was quite wet with damp, and stunk with filth; so much so, that I gave orders for it to be burned; which I believe was done after deceased was buried. The corpse of Pearce lay out on a loom, without any covering, but Mrs. Coop lent them a pair of sheets. The value of the furniture altogether, I should consider, would not fetch 2 *s.* if sold. I asked the woman and her daughters whether they had any food. They said they had not tasted that day. I went to my house, and brought them a quantity of broth, which they all devoured very voraciously. I was in the cellar whilst they partook of it, and one of the daughters, immediately after she had taken it, began to vomit very much, which I attributed to an excess of appetite, and being kept without food so long previously. I may add, that previously to partaking of the broth, they began to quarrel amongst themselves,

which had the greatest portion. I reported the case, and they were duly relieved. On the Tuesday following the committee sat, and they were ordered to be relieved. I now refer to the book in which the "distressed cases" are entered, and I find that they were relieved with a grant of 3 *s.* per week. I find the following entry, "Pearce, Ellen, widow, Howell-croft, to receive 3 *s.* per week for an unlimited period;" and the following entry in the remarks, "Husband supposed to have died from want." I inquired into the earnings of the whole family, and found they did not exceed 3 *s.* per week. I have since, several times, visited the old woman, Helen Pearce, and find that she is of very weak intellect, and any statement she might make is not fit to be taken as evidence, and her daughters are the same. It appears that a dulness of intellect afflicts the whole family. I went to the coroner's inquest for the purpose of giving evidence, but not being called upon, I did not do so. Had my evidence been taken, I do not know how the jury could have done otherwise than returned a verdict that the deceased died from want.

(signed) *Thomas Bradshaw.*

*James Webster* says:—I am town missionary at Bolton. My duty is to visit cases of sickness and distress. On Monday, the 24th of February last but one, from information I had received that a man had died from want in Howell-croft, I went there and made inquiry. The cellar of the deceased was pointed out to me, and on entering I saw the deceased dead, and laid out on his loom. I found the whole of the household requisites to consist of a small three-legged table, a chair, almost without a bottom, a stool, and a bed with some sacking on; the whole of which were worthless, not worth carrying away; the bed was very filthy. I reported the case to the Benevolent Society, who gave the family 5 *s.* I have seen the entry made in the Benevolent Society's book, and find Pearce's case is entered, "Died from want of food," and this was my full impression immediately after I had examined into the case. On inquiring into their earnings, I found they did not exceed 3 *s.* per week. I have frequently visited and relieved the case since, and I consider them all, that is, the old woman (Mrs. Pearce) and her two daughters to be of such very weak intellect that it approximates very closely to insanity, and that they are totally incapable of giving evidence that could be depended upon. Whenever I have conversed with them I have always left them fully impressed that they were labouring strongly under a degree of insanity.

(signed) *James Webster.*

*Nancy Beswick*, wife of Henry Beswick, weaver, Lever-street, Great Bolton, says:—I knew Pearce before he died for four years, and his family also. About three weeks previous to the death of Pearce I stood against my own door-step, and saw Pearce coming towards my house. There are three steps up to my house. He looked very wan, and pale as death, and was so weakly, that to get on to my house floor he had to go down on his hands and knees and creep up. He had been in the habit of weaving for us some months before, and I had missed him for a month about, on the day I am now speaking of. When he got in, he said, "Nancy, do, bless you, make a sup of warm tea, for I am dying for want." I made him some tea and a little toast, and he devoured it very greedily. When he had done it, he told me all that he had had for three or four weeks back; he had had nothing but a basin of gruel per day to subsist upon. In about a quarter of an hour after the old man had had the tea, he was seized with sickness, and I had to obtain the assistance of neighbours, for I thought he was dying. We reared him up in chairs with pillows, and in about three quarters of an hour he came round. I then asked him why he clammed himself to that degree, and he said, as he did not belong to Bolton he could not get relief. He pulled up his trousers and showed me his legs, and they appeared nothing but skin and bone; and it was frightful to see him. He was taken home by my husband, and I and his wife went to the overseers' office to represent the case to them. We saw Bridge, the assistant to the relieving officer, and told him the case, and he was very saucy, and said we had better mind our own business. I gave in the name of Pearce to the officer myself, for although his wife was present when the officer asked her husband's name, she could not tell, and desired me to do so. The officer said he would visit the case, but whether he ever did so or not I never ascertained, and I never heard anything more until about three weeks afterwards, which was, that he was dead. I heard this the same night that he died, and went to the cellar.

cellar. I there found them in a most shocking state, and the cellar smelled so much that I could not remain in it. He was laid out on the loom, with a sheet over him. I noticed in the back cellar there was a sewer, or midden channel, ran through, and the floor was covered with nauseous filth and water. All the goods in the house were a broken three-legged table, a stool, chair, and the bed, made of sacking, without covering. I went again on the Monday morning, and turned down the sheet to look at the corpse, and there were hundreds of creeping filth upon him. I pointed out the filth to his wife, and she appeared to be quite vacant. The daughters asked me to get them some light dresses and shawls, with purple spots in, as they were like to go to the funeral of the old man—they did not call him their father—they laughed, and appeared entirely out of their senses, and each of them had nothing wherewith to clothe them but canvas wrappering—without shoes, stockings, or wearing apparel of any description. There was no warp in the looms; but they stated that Messrs. Goodbrand had sent them some a week before, but they had sent for it back for fear the bailiffs should seize it. Before the inquest went over Pearce, I was warned by a policeman to go and give evidence before the jury at two o'clock. I went to the Britannia Inn where the jury was sitting, but was not called upon. I went precisely at two o'clock, but on going into the house, the landlord told me that it was all over, and the old woman (Pearce's wife) was coming out at the door. Had I been called upon before the jury, as I expected I should have been, I am sure I should have proved that, to my knowledge, he had died from want of food. When the old woman was coming out of the public-house, the man that showed her out, said, "Well, mistress, go home and take care that you don't die for want; look after something before you come to this, because you seem to have a dismal face." As I have stated before, I have known all the family for four years, and I always considered them not to be right in their minds. I have visited the family since the death of Pearce, and the old woman has often asked me, if I knew what they were going to do with her, because several fellows had questioned her, and inquired after her. I told her I believed they did not intend to do anything with her, and she had no occasion to be frightened. She talked very irrationally, and said she believed they wanted to send her somewhere, but that she would not go, but remain where she was. She appeared suspicious that some harm was meant towards her.

her
*Nancy + Beswick*,
mark.

*William Coop*, of Great Bolton, combmaker, saith:—At the time of the death of Pearce I was residing in the immediate neighbourhood, and had known the family well for some time previously. The first time that I had any acquaintance with Pearce he called to beg an old pair of shoes; I told him I gave my old clothes to my apprentice's father, whom I said was in great distress. He replied, if they were as badly off as he was, God help them, for neither he nor any of his family had tasted food since yesterday. On questioning him, I found him in a state of starvation; I went into the cellar and found him in the greatest distress; there was only one bedstead for himself, wife, and two daughters; no bed covering; they were forced to sleep in their clothes; the seats they sat upon were bricks and stones, before I gave them two old stools to sit upon. This was about six months before he died; he died on Sunday; his wife came and stated she believed her husband had given over stirring; I went, and found him dead. I went to the relieving-officer for the Relief Fund Committee (Mr. Bradshaw), and brought him down; he was laid out on a pair of looms, and my mistress found a sheet to lay over him; when it was returned, after Pearce had been buried, we were forced to burn it, on account of there being hundreds of filth upon it. I have seen Pearce pick potatoes off the midden, which have been thrown away for being rotten, and afterwards having gone into the cellar and found them boiled up, and they were eating them for dinner. There was no deceit in this, for I have gone frequently into the cellar when they were not aware of my coming. It is my firm opinion that Pearce died from nothing but starvation; I consider all the family of the Pearces to be to a great degree insane, and quite incompetent to give evidence; she has, to my knowledge, although I know her to be in the most abject state of poverty, often stated she wants for nothing, and is fearful she will be sent to the workhouse if she complains; she has told me, many a time, since her husband's

husband's death, that she shall fetch me if they offer to take her out of the cellar, and hopes I will protect her; her aversion to going into the workhouse, I am certain, would make her say and do anything to avoid going there.

(signed) *William Coop.*

I, *Henry M. Richardson,* do make oath, that on the 16th day of October 1841, the foregoing parties' examinations were taken before me fairly and fully as delivered by them, and that I wrote the same down as delivered by the several parties who have signed the same. As witness my hand, the day and year aforesaid.

(signed) *H. M. Richardson.*

Sworn before us,
*Robt. Heywood,*
*C. J. Darbishire,*
*Henry Ashworth,*
Justices of the Peace for the said Borough.

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The EXAMINATION of *Richard Dunderdale,* taken the 18th day of October 1841.

*Richard Dunderdale,* of Great Bolton, tea-dealer, says:—I was one of the overseers of the poor at the time of the death of Pearce; I recollect going with Mr. Naisby to the cellar at the time that Pearce lay dead on a pair of looms; from what I saw and heard from the old woman and her two daughters I felt convinced that the old man died from want; the old woman and her daughters appeared of very weak intellect.

(signed) *Richard Dunderdale.*

I, *Henry Richardson,* solemnly declare the above to be a true statement of Mr. Dunderdale's evidence.

(signed) *Henry Richardson,*

Taken before me,
*C. J. Darbishire.*

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From Mr. *Mott*'s Report.

"*Ellen Pearce* states that her husband's name was William Pearce; that he died last February 12 months; had been ailing 18 weeks, but had worked occasionally during that time; that he was 65 years of age; that he had plenty of work if he could have done it; that he was a steady, sober man, and always brought his wages home; that they had two looms at home, on which she and her daughter worked; that her daughter Phœbe worked at Mr. Haslam's, in Blackhorse-street, at that time; that she and her daughter earned about 9 *s.* 6 *d.* per week; that they never wanted food; 'they were comfortable then;' and she had not applied for relief."

Ellen Pearce does not belong to Bolton, but her settlement cannot be ascertained; I found her inhabiting a cellar, in a dirty state. Her daughter Phœbe still works at weaving, and she receives 3 *s.* per week of the Union for herself and daughter, a young woman of weak intellects; she did not make the least complaint of her husband having been neglected. I repeatedly asked her as to the state they were in when her husband died, and she answered, they did not want food; "that they were comfortable then."

In consequence of the statement made by William Coop, Ellen Pearce was again examined, and she confirmed the foregoing statement, and indignantly denied William Coop's story about the potatoes.

(signed) *Charles Mott.*

24 September 1841.

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EXTRACT from Dr. *Bowring*'s Speech, in the House of Commons, on Wednesday, 25th August 1841, on the Distress in Bolton.

WOULD the House bear with him while he detailed some cases of individual suffering, authenticated by the evidence of Poor Law guardians and magistrates? "I visited," says the informant, "a man and his wife, with four children; I found two of the children lying on a piece of straw, without any covering. I went up stairs and found the father dead on the boards, without bedding or bed. His wife told me that the day before he died he wished for a little bread and cheese, but in vain. The neighbours said he had died for want of food." Another wretched case. "A man, his wife, and two daughters (it is a guardian of the poor who speaks), lived in a cellar, the wife and daughters out of work; this man earned about 4*s.* per week by weaving; I was fetched by the neighbours, who told me the man had died of hunger; I found him lying dead on one of the looms; they had neither bed nor bedding. I caused a jury to be summoned: their verdict was, 'Died for want of food.'" He felt a difficulty in selecting cases from the many mournful examples he held in his hand. His correspondent had been called to visit a family which he was informed was in a state of starvation. He found the father had just sold all he had to pay his rent, and had removed, with his family, to his father's, whither he followed him, and found the man, his wife, and four children; another brother, his wife, and three children; a third brother, his wife, and one child; all the men out of work, all the women far advanced in pregnancy, in a house four and a half yards square; they all slept in a room above of the same size, and lay upon little but straw.

### IS THE CONDITION OF THE POOR IMPROVED?

It may be said that these cases having occurred some time ago, that distress is not so great in Bolton at present. On that subject I beg to refer to a report which has been published and circulated in Bolton, within the last 10 days, by the Committee of the Society for the Protection of the Poor, of which the Rev. J. Slade, vicar of this parish, is the president, and the Rev. J. S. Birley, vice-president, in which the following important information appears:

"Number of individuals constituting the families of applicants, 2,656.
Average income per week, 1 *s.* 2¾ *d.*
Average income per week of parties relieved, 10 ¼ *d.*"

*W. N.*

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OBSERVATIONS on Mr. *Naisby*'s Statement with reference to the *Bolton* Inquiry.

Gentlemen, Manchester, 3 November 1841.

I HAVE received the Board's letter of 23d ultimo, inclosing copy of Mr. Naisby's remarks, with evidence of witnesses, in the cases of William Pearce and James Bristol, who are again said to have "died from want of food," at Bolton, with copy of a letter from the Hon. H. Manners Sutton, in which I am instructed to remit to the Board any observations I may have to offer in reply, for the information of Sir James Graham.

In obedience therewith, I have to offer the following remarks.

Mr. Naisby has completely changed his accusations, and the grounds upon which they were originally made, and he makes assertions which are not supported by the facts.

For example, he states "that Mr. Mott was very careful not to examine any witnesses whose evidence was likely to show the real cause of these deaths, although he had been repeatedly requested to do so."

In reply, I have to state that Mr. Naisby having acknowledged in a letter to Mr. Woodhouse, that he had given the information to Dr. Bowring in the presence of Mr. Woodhouse, the clerk, I took Mr. Naisby's evidence in writing, and afterwards read it over to him, when he assented to the correctness of it. I inquired of him if he wished for any person to be examined; Mr. Naisby said it was not necessary, and thought that it would be only requisite to go into the case of William Pearce, upon whose body Mr. Naisby had again repeated, in his letter to Mr. Woodhouse, a jury had brought in a verdict "Died from want of food."

Having ascertained that no verdict had been given, and that the evidence I had received was at variance with the statement made by Mr. Naisby, I acquainted him with the result, when Mr. Naisby handed me the letters from Mr. Balshaw and Mr. Coop in support of his statements. I again read to Mr. Naisby the evidence in Pearce's case; I told him I would forward the letter with the rest of the evidence, and I asked him, moreover, if he wished to make any further statement or offer any other evidence, and I at the same time stated my willingness to inform him the result of the calculation I had made respecting the empty houses at Bolton.

Mr. Naisby said he had no further evidence to offer, and that he should be quite satisfied if I would forward the letters of Mr. Balshaw and Mr. Coop; and as to the statement about the houses, it was not his, and he neither knew nor cared anything about it. As regards Mr. Coop's statement, the widow denied his assertion in the presence of Mr. Coode and Mr. Brown, who accompanied me on my second visit; and with reference to Mr. Balshaw's letter, finding that he was the registrar of the district at the time of William Pearce's death, and that the statement he had made in his letter was directly at variance with the certificate given by him at the time, in which he asserts that the cause of his death was gradual decay, I wrote to Mr. Balshaw on 28th September, pointing out this discrepancy, and requesting he would inform me what could have induced him on 25th February 1840, two days after the death of William Pearce, when the facts and particulars must have been fresh in his recollection, to have certified that the death was occasioned by "gradual decay," if in September 1841 he could so positively assert that he died of the want of the necessaries of life. Mr. Balshaw, in reply to my letter, sent me one dated 30th September, in which he states, "I am very sorry that I should have been decoyed into this unpleasantness, as when I furnished Mr. Naisby with the information, I was not aware until I had near written all I did write he wanted me to sign my name, much less to put it in the shape of a letter to him, for when I had finished the writing, he says, 'you had better direct to me.' He having been kind to me in days gone by, I did not like to offend him, so I directed it to him, little fancying that such a letter would be put in a newspaper; this will teach me a lesson for my future guidance."

I must beg to observe, however, that this occurred after my report had been forwarded to your Board, and I must most explicitly deny that I declined or neglected to receive any information relative to the cases under examination before I completed my report.

I am informed that Mr. Naisby has declared to Dr. Bowring, that he did not state to me that his communication with Dr. Bowring was of a political character. On this point, I beg to refer the Board to the annexed letter from Mr. Woodhouse, a solicitor of high character at Bolton, the clerk to the Bolton Union, in whose presence the inquiry was chiefly conducted, who states that he has the most distinct recollection that Mr. Naisby stated that the communication he had with Dr. Bowring was entirely of a political nature.

Should it be deemed necessary to pursue the inquiry any further, Mr. Rutter, the other coroner, has within the last fortnight named to Mr. Woodhouse that he recollects attending the house and inquiring into the cause of death of William Pearce, and satisfied himself that there was nothing to warrant the report that he had died from want of food.

My allusion to the political proceedings of the anti-corn law gentlemen had no reference to Mr. Naisby; he had established his motive by his admission that his communication with Dr. Bowring was entirely of a political character. I made no mention of the "Anti-Corn Law League," as Mr. Naisby calls it; I simply stated the time and circumstances under which the committee obtained its information, and the use which appeared to have been made of it.

The evidence of the widow, Ellen Pearce, was taken in the presence of the relieving officer; and Mr. Naisby has incorrectly attributed to me the expression that the Pearce's family were in "comfortable living," whereas it was the woman Pearce herself who stated that "they were comfortable then," meaning when her husband was alive.

It will be unnecessary for me to notice any other remarks of Mr. Naisby's in reference to my proceedings in the inquiry at Bolton; but Mr. Naisby having at the conclusion of his publication extracted from the report, recently published by the Committee of the Society for the Protection of the Poor in Great Bolton, an account of the number of individuals constituting the families of applicants to that society,

society. in illustration of the distress which exists at Bolton, I must beg to offer a few observations on this statement, by which, I think, Mr. Naisby will be found to be as unlucky in his selections to prove the existence of general distress, as he has been in the individual cases into which the inquiry was made.

The number of applicants from the commencement was 776, who, with their families, amounted, as Mr. Naisby states, to 2,656 individuals; but Mr. Naisby does not mention the fact, that of this number no less than 558 cases were dismissed as unworthy, or as otherwise provided for; amongst whom may be named the following causes of dismissal:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Guilty of deliberate falsehoods | 67 |
| Professional mendicants | 45 |
| Bad characters | 31 |
| Refuse to work | 23 |
| Impostors | 7 |
| Confirmed drunkards | 27 |
| Not found | 17 |
| Refuse to appear before the committee | 30 |
| Refused to be removed, chiefly mendicants | 43 |
| Disorderly characters | 17 |
| Vagrants | 18 |
| Permanent cases, receiving relief from parish | 55 |
| Receiving earnings above the scale allowed by the committee | 67 |
| Referred to the relieving officers | 76 |
| Living beyond the limits of the borough | 13 |
| Thieves | 2 |
| Found work for | 1 |
| Left town | 1 |
| Referred to inquiry for private charity, but found unworthy | 14 |
| Refuse to answer inquiry | 4 |
| Total | 558 |

It will thus be seen that 558 cases were dismissed by the society for the reasons I have stated, whilst 218 cases only were relieved as objects of charity; and taking the 218 cases at three and four-tenths individuals to each case (the average of the whole), it will give 741 individuals relieved, whilst 1,915 were dismissed without relief, after due inquiry by the society, as unworthy or otherwise provided for.

With reference to the case of William Pearce's death, I am not aware that it will be requisite for me to offer any further observations. It was asserted that a jury had returned a verdict of "Died of want." The answer is, that no such verdict was ever returned; that the coroners were satisfied that no grounds existed for such a charge. And this opinion is further confirmed by the certificate of the registrar of the district at the time Pearce's death happened, that he "Died of gradual decay."

These facts cannot be altered by any evidence that can now be offered to the contrary, and I respectfully submit that no good would result from prolonging an investigation upon points upon which I believe the public is now perfectly satisfied.

Nevertheless, should the Board deem it requisite that any further evidence should be obtained, I will hold myself in readiness to make a more extensive inquiry immediately.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Charles Mott.*

To the Poor Law Commissioners.

Dear Sir, Bolton Union, 26 October 1841.

I was present at the Board-room when you took the evidence of Mr. William Naisby, in reference to the communication made by him to Dr. Bowring, M.P., respecting the alleged death from want of food, in this Union, of William Pearce and James Bristol, and having referred to your report, I am enabled to speak positively to its accuracy.

The examination of Mr. Naisby was taken in writing in his presence, and read over by you, and assented to by him; I have the most distinct recollection that he stated to you that the communication he had with Dr. Bowring was entirely of a political nature.

I am, &c.

To Charles Mott, Esq. (signed) *John Woodhouse.*

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Sir, 1, Queen-square, Westminster, 14 Dec. 1841.

I have the honour to enclose a letter from the gentlemen who instituted an inquiry in December last into the condition of the working classes of Little Bolton.

For the respectability of their characters, and the veracity of their statements, I can vouch; and their united testimony will, I think, show in how partial and unsatisfactory a spirit the Assistant Poor-Law Commissioner conducted his investigations.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (signed) *John Bowring.*
Sir James Graham, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

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The Right Hon. Sir *James Graham*, Bart. M.P. Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, &c. &c. &c.

We the undersigned, inhabitants and rate-payers of the township of Little Bolton, being the parties who instituted an inquiry into the condition of some of the labouring classes of this township in December of last year, feel called upon to notice some part of a report made by Charles Mott, esq. to the Home Office, and printed by order of Parliament, 6th October 1841.

In the report alluded to Mr. Mott says, "About Christmas last year, some of the ley-payers of Bolton formed themselves into a committee to inquire into the condition of the poor of Bolton; their object was not explained at the time, but it would appear to have had reference to an anti-corn-law meeting, which was held in the Temperance Hall, Bolton, on the 2d January last.

"At that meeting statements were made by those gentlemen who had instituted the inquiry, by which the distress was attributed to the operation of the duty on corn. No attempts were made by them to relieve the distress which was said to exist, and no application was made to the guardians or the relieving officers until 15th January, a fortnight after the statements had been used at the meeting, when a deputation of gentlemen waited on the guardians and left a list of upwards of 300 families, who were described to be in great distress. The information so obtained was handed over to the relieving officers, and the facts elicited by them are deserving of notice, as exhibiting the evil tendency of all such voluntary attempts to seek out cases of distress. The relieving officers found that the cases had been grossly misrepresented to the committee; that only one out of the whole number was considered as attended by circumstances requiring relief; that in this case the guardians granted relief of 2 *s.* weekly in money, and supplied the family with bedding and a bedstead, as they were found to be lying on the floor: and to show how slightly the poorer classes estimate the possession of this last article of furniture, on visiting the family three months afterwards the relieving officer found their bed placed on four chairs and some boards, and the bedstead remained unused in an adjoining room."

It is to the above quotation and the cases connected therewith that we most especially wish to claim your attention.

We deem no apology or explanation requisite from us for having inquired into the condition of our distressed and destitute neighbours: the inquiry originated in

in a purely charitable and benevolent intention; and although the information was made public at an anti-corn law tea-party, we can truly say the inquiry was neither instituted for that purpose, nor was any such service contemplated at the time the inquiry was made.

By making public the extent of suffering, we were in hopes some effort would have been made, as upon the previous winter, when nearly 3,000 *l.* was raised by private subscriptions, towards alleviating the distress; but from the great increase of the distress, as well as the greater inability of many of the middle classes again to subscribe, it was eventually thought more deserving the attention of the Board of Guardians, than to be dealt with by private charity. Having done what we considered to be an act of duty towards our fellow-parishioners, and for which we received the thanks of the Board of Guardians, we cannot but express our surprise and regret that a public functionary, holding the high and responsible offices of Assistant Poor Law Commissioner as well as Special Government Commissioner for inquiring into some particular cases of destitution, should have so far forgotten the trust reposed in him, and so far have wandered from the obvious line of his duty, as to impute unworthy motives to the parties who instituted this distressing inquiry. Nor has he been satisfied with imputing motives: he has ventured, without personal investigation of his own, without any effort to ascertain the truth of the statement made, to accuse us of partizanship and of misrepresentation, leaving the impression that we had invented or exaggerated tales of distress in order to serve a political and party object.

We deny the accusation, and complain of the levity and carelessness in which it has been made. Since that report has been printed, we have thought it incumbent on us to re-institute a minute inquiry into all the cases now to be found; each family has been visited by two respectable rate-payers who are ready to vouch for the correctness of their statements. Of the 309 families before reported, 48 are broken up, and no longer to be found; some have entered the workhouses; two families are gone to Australia; others are dispersed among their friends and relations.

The condition of the remainder is in no respect better than last year; they remain living and suffering testimonies to the truth of our statements; 69 families are receiving parish relief; and this in addition to the earnings of the parties, when rent is deducted, will only leave 1 *s.* 5½ *d.* per head per week for each individual to exist upon; their beds, bedding, and clothing are in a worse condition than before.

We are fully borne out in this statement by the report of the Bolton Society for the Protection of the Poor, of which the Rev. James Slade, vicar of this parish, is president, and the Rev. J. S. Birley, of All Saints, the vice-president. That report states, that "the numbers of individuals constituting the families of applicants were 2,656; average income per week, 1 *s.* 2¾ *d.*; average income per week of parties relieved, 10¼ *d.*"

Mr. Mott's report declares, "That the information was handed over to the relieving officers; that the cases had been grossly misrepresented by the committee; that only one out of the whole number was considered as attended by circumstances requiring relief." We beg respectfully to call your attention to the very serious character of these imputations; and to assure you, that upon the closest investigation, we cannot discover, with the exception of the one case in question, that a single case was either visited or investigated by the relieving officers in consequence of our report.

In the case alluded to, we beg to repel the unworthy libel cast upon the poorer classes, and this we are more urgently called upon to do at a moment when the labouring classes are bearing their heavy burthen of sufferings with a patience and forbearance the most admirable. Mr. Mott says, "To show how slightly the poorer classes estimate the possession of this last article of furniture (a bedstead), on visiting the family three months afterwards the relieving officer found the bed placed upon four chairs and some boards, and the bedstead remained unused in an adjoining room." We have particularly inquired into the case, and find that the family alluded to consisted of a man, his wife, and four children, who were living in a cellar, the ceiling of which was only seven inches above the level of the street; the back room of the cellar in which the bedstead was placed was 13 ft. 3 in. by 13 ft. 6 in., and 6 ft. from floor to ceiling. The walls were so damp that the mortar was not dry; the humidity of the room rotted the bedcord, and the family being too poor to buy another, as well as suffering in health by the

 damp,

damp, they preferred removing the bed into the front or living room, in which was a fire; but this room being only 12 ft. 6 in. by 13 ft., would not contain both a mangle and the bedstead; therefore the bed was supported as described, on which the man, his wife, and four children slept.

At this period the man was working for the owner of the cellar, who stopped the rent weekly out of his wages, leaving 5 *s.* 9 *d.* as the net income of the family; to which the relieving officer, by his own acknowledgment, added 2 *s.*, making 7 *s.* 9 *d.* per week for six people, or 1 *s.* 3 ½ *d.* per head per week to live upon.

Nor can we allow this case to pass without drawing your attention to a subsequent part of Mr. Mott's report, in which he says, "that a scale is fixed, by which relief is regulated in aid of wages; 2 *s.* 3 *d.* per head per week is considered the minimum amount of income on which a family can subsist;" and after quoting the order of the Board of Guardians, "that the standard of relief per head per week for the next three months be fixed at 2 *s.* 3 *d.* per head per week," says, "the subject does not appear to have received any further consideration, and the standard of 2 *s.* 3 *d.* has ever since been acted upon."

If 2 *s.* 3 *d.* per head per week was considered as the standard rule of relief, we think there must have been a case of great dereliction of duty brought under Mr. Mott's notice in the one just alluded to, where the relieving officer supplied the family with a bed and bedstead, but added only 2 *s.* per week to the 5 *s.* 9 *d.*, the income of the family, when rent was deducted, making only 1 *s.* 3 ½ *d.* per head per week to live upon.

But from the best information we can obtain, we have good reason to believe that Mr. Mott himself never visited a single case, and certainly avoided putting himself in communication with those who, with much labour, had undertaken the painful duty of examining into the sad condition of the people.

The ten cases arranged in a tabular form in the correspondence attached to Mr. Mott's report, and intended to illustrate the incorrectness of our report, were compiled from the books of the relieving officers, on information received at least ten months previous to Mr. Mott's report, and not from any special visits paid to these parties subsequent to our report.

Many of the parties whose cases are before us belong to places not in this Union; they are now the victims of a depressed trade, and having once been able to obtain good wages and full employment, they still cling to a hope that trade may again revive; they remain till every particle of their little property is consumed, and when they apply to the relieving officer, and he to their distant parish, they are offered the workhouse instead of a temporary out-door relief; hence we find so many able-bodied, intelligent, and clever mechanics and artisans, who once obtained 20 *s.* or 30 *s.* per week, now starving in the streets, or begging at our doors, rather than be removed into a distant workhouse, from whence they know they have small chance of ever again regaining their former independent position.

We would therefore venture to suggest that in the proposed new poor law some alteration be made in favour of the able-bodied artisan having the option of receiving out-door relief during the time of temporary suspension of employment.

We have thought it desirable to notice principally those parts of Mr. Mott's report with which we are individually concerned, but we cannot refrain from protesting against the manner in which Mr. Mott has conducted this inquiry, the animus which pervades his report throughout, and the exceedingly unsatisfactory character of the whole investigation.

We have, &c.

(signed)

*Edmd. Ashworth.*
*John Entwisle.*
*George Knott.*
*Jacob Lomax.*
*James Barry.*
*Thomas Lee.*
*Thos. Thomasson.*
*John Goodbrand.*
*James Haigh.*
*John Mackinnell.*
*John Vickers.*
*Robert Walsh.*
*Nath. Wilson.*

Bolton-le-Moors, 11 December 1841.

Gentlemen, Manchester, 24 December 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's letter of 18th instant, enclosing copy of a letter from Dr. Bowring, M.P. to the Right honourable Sir James Graham, with a communication made by the gentlemen who instituted an inquiry in December 1840 into the condition of the working classes of Little Bolton, with reference to my report of 24th September last, and requesting my observations upon the statements made in such communication.

In compliance therewith I respectfully submit the following remarks.

The gentlemen quote the following extract from my report: "About Christmas last year some of the ley-payers of Bolton formed themselves into a committee to inquire into the condition of the poor of Bolton; their object was not explained at the time, but it would appear to have had reference to an anti-corn law meeting, which was held in the Temperance Hall, Bolton, on 2d January last. At that meeting statements were made by those gentlemen who had instituted the inquiry, by which the distress was attributed to the duty on corn. No attempts were made by them to relieve the distress which was said to exist, and no application was made to the guardians or the relieving officers until 15th January, a fortnight after the statements had been used at the meeting, when a deputation of gentlemen waited on the guardians, and left a list of upwards of 300 families, who were described to be in great distress. The information so obtained was handed over to the relieving officers, and the facts elicited by them are deserving of notice, as exhibiting the evil tendency of all such voluntary attempts to seek out cases of distress. The relieving officers found that the cases had been grossly misrepresented to the committee.

"That only one of the whole number was considered as attended by circumstances requiring relief; that in this case the guardians granted relief of 2*s.* weekly in money, and supplied the family with bedding and a bedstead, as they were found to be lying on the floor; and to show how slightly the poorer classes estimate the possession of this last article of furniture, on visiting the family three months afterwards the relieving officer found their bed placed on four chairs and some boards, and the bedstead remained unused in an adjoining room."

The gentlemen state that "the inquiry was instituted in a purely charitable and benevolent intention, and although the information was made public at an anti-corn law tea party, we can truly say the inquiry was neither instituted for that purpose, nor was any such service contemplated at the time the inquiry was made."

The gentlemen "regret that a public functionary should so far have forgotten the trust reposed in him, and so far have wandered from the obvious line of his duty, as to impute unworthy motives to the parties who instituted this distressing inquiry."

"Mr. Mott's report declares, that the information was handed over to the relieving officer; that the cases had been grossly misrepresented by the committee."

The gentlemen again explain the distress which existed at Bolton in December 1840, and submit a statement from the report of the Bolton Society in corroboration of their former representations. They further state, that upon the closest investigation they cannot discover that a single case was either visited or investigated by the relieving officers in consequence of their report, and they have good reason to believe that I "never visited a single case, and avoided putting myself in communication with the gentlemen who had undertaken the painful duty of examining into the said condition of the people."

Lastly, complaint is made of the manner in which I conducted the inquiry; "of the animus which pervades my report throughout, and of the exceedingly unsatisfactory character of the whole investigation."

I should, indeed, exceedingly regret if any part of my report could justify the charge of accusing the gentlemen of "misrepresentation, and of having invented or exaggerated tales of distress in order to serve political and party objects."

I trust I shall be able to show that I have not "so far forgotten the trust reposed in me," but that I have made a faithful report, and that I shall be borne out by the facts which I now submit to the consideration of your Board.

First, as to the use made of the information obtained by the gentlemen who instituted the inquiry into the condition of the labouring classes at the anti-corn law tea party:

The inquiry was made in December 1840.

The anti-corn law tea party was held on Saturday evening, 2d January 1841.

On the 15th January the report was made to the guardians, as described by Mr. Woodhouse.

"On the 15th January 1841, a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Edmund Ashworth, jun., James Barry, Jacob Lomax, and Thomas Lee, attended the Board, and made a report of 309 families, and which they stated was the result of their own minute investigation in the township of Little Bolton.

"They did not, as far as I recollect, explain any object they had in view by such proceeding; but they were asked if they had any charge to make of neglect against the relieving officers. They said they had not; but they thought it their duty to put the Board in possession of the result of their inquiry."

The particulars of the meeting at the Temperance Hall were fully reported in the Bolton Free Press of Saturday, 9th January, copy of which I annex for the information of the Commissioners, wherein it is stated, that "upwards of a thousand persons belonging to the middle and working classes assembled together to testify their horror 'of the iniquitous bread-tax.'"

At that meeting, Mr. Edmund Ashworth, one of the gentlemen who has signed the statement, is reported to have said, "For the purpose of procuring accurate data regarding the distress which prevailed in the town, a number of gentlemen had taken the trouble to go round and make certain inquiries, the result of which was a mass of evidence as to the condition of the labouring classes, which would astonish even those who were most familiar with distress."

Mr. Lawrence Heyworth, of Liverpool, another gentleman who spoke at the meeting, said, "They had heard from their friend, Mr. Ashworth, of the misery which the starvation laws had created in this borough. Four hundred houses in Little Bolton, and a thousand houses in Great Bolton, were now tenantless, which a few months ago were occupied by comfortable, industrious, and honest families, who had been reduced from one degree of distress to another, and finally driven forth houseless wanderers in the land of their birth by the operation of the corn laws.

"Taking the usual average of five persons to each house, there were 7,000 victims to the detestable corn laws in Bolton alone."

The following is the evidence of Mr. Greenhalgh, one of the relieving officers of the Bolton Union. "A large meeting was held close upon this investigation, in reference to the corn laws, at which the statements of the committee were read and commented upon.

"I know that the statements published of those visits have been extensively reported in other places as well as Bolton, and have had a very mischievous effect." With a knowledge of these facts, I am afraid I should really have subjected myself to the charge of having "forgotten the trust reposed in me," had I neglected to state them to your Board; and although perhaps it would have been more discreet on my part to have given these particulars without any observation of my own, I respectfully submit that they are such as will justify my having stated that the inquiry "would appear" to have had reference to an anti-corn law meeting, held on the 2d January last.

As to the distress in Bolton in December 1840, I have never for one moment denied the existence of great distress, not only at Bolton, but in the cotton manufacturing districts generally.

My object was to show the difficulty, I may say the impossibility, of obtaining correct information from the poor themselves, and the deception to which gentlemen are subject who undertake such inquiries. I have expressly stated in my report, that "the relieving officers found that the cases had been grossly misrepresented *to* the committee." I am charged with having reported that "the cases had been grossly misrepresented *by* the committee."

I have no right to attribute such unworthy motives to those gentlemen; no part of my report can justify such an assertion.

I will offer no remark upon such an obvious perversion of my meaning.

Mr. Greenhalgh, one of the relieving officers, states: "I recollect, about Christmas last, some of the ley-payers formed themselves into a committee to inquire into the distress said to exist in Little Bolton.

"A statement was made of several families said to have been visited, which, although residing in Little Bolton, belonged to the townships in my district, and I thought it my duty to examine the cases, and compare them with what I knew

to

to be the correct state of those families; and the result was, that in every case representations had been made which were not true; that the amount of earnings had been incorrectly stated; and in every instance a colouring had been given, implying that a greater degree of want existed than was really the case. I charged one woman with telling untruths, and with misleading the ley-payers as to the state in which she was, when she confessed that she had told falsehoods, and endeavoured to make her case as bad as she could, thinking that they were about distributing blankets: and she afterwards told me that she should have got something from them if I had not interfered. I think it necessary to explain these facts, in order to show the slight dependence that should be paid to statements thus obtained."

Mr. Makant, another of the relieving officers, states: "I have heard Mr. Greenhalgh's evidence, and well recollect the investigation by the committee, and I can confirm all he has stated relative to it.

"The guardians gave directions to the officers to report upon the statements made by the committee. There were 10 cases reported by the committee, all belonging to my district, the whole of which were incorrectly given; for instance, it was stated that the earnings averaged only 9¼*d.* per head per week, whereas I was able, from sources within my power, to prove that they were at that time in receipt of wages amounting as nearly as possible to 2*s.* per head per week, besides other sources which I had no means of ascertaining."

"The relieving officers were directed to report upon the cases, but only one single case was presented whose circumstances required relief."

Mr. Makant also forwarded to me the following particulars with reference to a few cases so reported upon:

| Name of the Person. | Residence. | Occupation. | Number of Family. | Weekly Earnings as stated by Committee. | REMARKS. | Relieving Officers. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | *s.* *d.* | | |
| James Barlow - | Back Lever-street | Warper - - | 5 | 5 9 | - - The weekly income of this family was 11 *s.* 6 *d.* | Mr. Makant. |
| Thomas Crook - | Union-street - | Weaver - - | 6 | 5 6 | - In addition he had a pension of 1 *s.* per day, and earnings incorrectly stated. | Mr. Greenhalgh. |
| John Rothwell - | Back Capel-street | - Ditto - - | 4 | 6 6 | - - In addition he had 3 *s.* per week from Little Bolton, and his earnings were 3 *s.* per week more, making 12 *s.* 6 *d.* a week. | Mr. Makant. |
| Betty Holt - | Lever-street - | Cake baker - | 5 | 4 6 | - - She was living with a man who earned 12 *s.* per week, and received 2 *s.* per week from Bradshaw; this woman expected to get blankets. | Mr. Greenhalgh. |
| Samuel Hulme - | Back Dean-street | Cotton spinner - | 7 | 5 – | - - In addition he had 7 *s.* per week from Sharples. | Mr. Makant. |
| John Lester - | Back Cross-street | Formerly bleacher | 5 | 10 – | - - Earnings, 14 *s.* and 1 *s.* 6*d.* a week relief. | Mr. Greenhalgh. |
| Margery Fletcher | William-street - | Washerwoman - | 3 | 5 – | - - In addition she had 4 *s.* per week from Blachood. | Mr. Makant. |
| William Burrows | Kay-street - | Tailor - - | 2 | 2 – | - - In addition he had 4 *s.* per week from Inmewold, Loughborough Union, and was earning 3 *s.* per week. | Ditto. |
| James Diggle - | Morris-square - | Dyer - - | 2 | 1 – | - His wife was earning 6 *s.* 6 *d.* per week, and he had 2 *s.* a week relief, making 9 *s.* 6 *d.* | Ditto. |
| Ann Briggs - | Back Charles-st. | Charwoman - | 5 | 1 – | - - She received in addition 7 *s.* per week from Pennington Leigh Union. | Ditto. |

With such evidence, I do not see how I could have arrived at any other conclusion, than that the cases had been grossly misrepresented to the committee.

The statement, that the gentlemen of the committee cannot discover that a single case was either visited or investigated by the relieving officers in consequence of their report, implies a charge of great neglect on the part of the officers, which could scarcely have been overlooked by the guardians at that time. I have again questioned the relieving officers, who state, that they were personally acquainted with most of the cases, as many of them were receiving relief from the Board of Guardians.

In justice to those officers I am bound to state, that they are respectable, intelligent men, and Mr. Woodhouse, the clerk to the guardians, assures me that they have evinced great zeal and attention in the discharge of their duties.

The report of the Bolton Society for the Protection of the Poor, to which the gentlemen have referred, which I believe to be a valuable society, and reflects infinite credit on the chairman and vice-chairman, the Rev. James Slade and the Rev. J. Birley, for the attention they bestow to the benevolent objects of the society, instead of bearing out the statements made to those gentlemen by the poor, I submit confirms to the fullest extent the impositions to which I have alluded, as practised by the poor in their attempts to excite charity.

It is true that the estimated number of individuals constituting the families of the applicants to the society was 2,556.

The number of applicants was 776.

Now it should be noticed that of these 776 applicants, 67 were proved to have been guilty of deliberate falsehoods; 45 were professional mendicants; 31 bad characters; 23 refused to work; 26 confirmed drunkards; 30 refused to appear before the committee; 43 refused to be removed, chiefly mendicants; 14 unworthy of private charity; 17 could not be found; 55 were permanent cases found to be receiving relief from their parishes; 17 disorderly characters, females; 18 vagrants; seven impostors; four refused to answer inquiries: in short, out of 776 applicants only 218 were relieved by the society. Surely I need offer no further evidence of "the evil tendency of voluntary attempts to seek out cases of distress," than the facts stated in the valuable report referred to by the gentlemen of the committee.

As regards the statement that I never visited a single case, and avoided putting myself in communication with the gentlemen who had undertaken the inquiry of the cases reported by the committee, I admit I did not visit any. I was not called upon to do so. I repeat, that I referred to them to illustrate the necessity of caution being used in acting upon statements received from the poor on such occasions.

I was directed to make inquiry into the cases of Pearce, Bristol, and Kirkhams. I visited the dwellings of the widows Pearce and Bristol, and examined both personally, in the presence of the relieving officers.

In the case of Kirkhams, I intended to have visited, but Mr. Naisby stated it to be quite unnecessary, as the circumstances of the family were altered.

I gave Mr. Naisby, who was Dr. Bowring's informant, every opportunity of producing any evidence he might have to offer, and even after my report was made, I was desirous to have added any fresh proof that he had to adduce; but on applying to Mr. Balshaw, the registrar, for an explanation as to the extraordinary difference between his letter to Mr. Naisby, as one of the committee of the Benevolent Society, dated 17th Sept. 1841, and his certificate of the cause of the death of Wm. Pearce, as registrar for the district, given 25th Feb. 1840, two days after Pearce's death, I received a letter from Mr. Balshaw, in which he states, "I am very sorry that I should have been decoyed into this unpleasantness, as when I furnished Mr. Naisby with the information, I was not aware until I had near written all I did write he wanted me to sign my name, much less to put it in the shape of a letter to him, for when I had finished the writing he says, 'you had better direct to me.' He having been kind to me in days gone by, I did not like to offend him, little fancying that such a letter would be put in a newspaper; this will teach me a lesson for my future guidance."

Having received this admission, I certainly did consider it prudent not to pursue the inquiry further.

Lastly, as regards the protest of the gentlemen against the manner in which I have conducted the inquiry, and the exceedingly unsatisfactory character of the whole

whole investigation, I can declare that I was guided only by a desire to give a faithful report of the facts brought under my notice. I could not expect to give satisfaction to the persons to whose proceedings I was compelled to refer. The guardians were doubtless equally angry at the statement I made of their proceedings.

The gentlemen should bear in mind that I could have had no motive but that of making your Board acquainted with the facts which had come to my knowledge.

I cannot charge myself with the motives and conduct attributed to me by the gentlemen who have signed the statement, and I have submitted the foregoing explanation with full confidence that I was justified in the course I adopted, and in the report I made with reference thereto.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Chas. Mott.*

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Sir, Bolton, 21 Jan. 1842.

I BEG leave to call your attention to the report of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner who was sent down in September last to Bolton, with instructions from the Home Office to inquire into certain cases of destitution and death alleged to have recently occurred there, and I regret that circumstances have prevented me from bringing this subject sooner under your notice.

The evidence of the several relieving officers of the Union, printed with the report, clearly shows with what little regard to truth the "cases of destitution and death" had been got up; indeed the individual who furnished them, himself admits that the communication he had with Dr. Bowring was entirely of a political character; that in none of the cases he gave him was the Board of Guardians or any of its members or officers blameable; in fact, that if blame rested anywhere, it must be with himself, who had visited the cases, and had it in his power, as guardian, to grant at all times necessary relief.

This avowal, in my opinion, not only disposes satisfactorily of all the cases which the Assistant Commissioner was sent down to investigate, but also exhibits in a proper and unequivocal light the person who could so unscrupulously furnish such cases, and then as unscrupulously make such an avowal. For these portions, therefore, of the "report and evidence" which elicit the above facts, I, with the public generally, must feel obliged; and it is only when the Assistant Commissioner, leaving so legitimate and commendable a course of inquiry, deals in unfounded statements and slanderous insinuations, and when, moreover, the Board under whose authority he acts ventures upon publishing them, that I feel called upon to draw your attention to the "report and evidence," and to offer, in self-defence, that statement of facts in connexion with the case of James Bristol (quære Bristow), which every one on perusal will, I think, admit it demands.

In page 3, the report says—"He (Bristol) did not emigrate through the agency of your Board, and consequently had some difficulty in procuring work; such a family would through the emigration agency have obtained employment for a period of five years at not less than 30 *s.* per week, but Bristol could only procure work for himself, and engaged with a master at 15 *s.* per week."

Without dwelling on the insinuation here thrown out, that because he was not under the protection of the "emigration agency" Bristol fell into bad hands on his arrival in Bolton, I may be allowed to doubt whether such a family could have obtained permanent employment at 30 *s.* per week. The above "extract" is moreover at variance with truth in two respects; first, he had no difficulty in procuring work, for I engaged him as a carter at 15 *s.* per week, within an hour, as he told me, after his arrival in Bolton; secondly, his family did not join him till near three months afterwards, when two of them who were of the required age were placed in the factory, and another, who was a cripple, was provided with a "reel" gratis, and worked upon it at home. The names of the children first appear on the pay-list 10th Dec. 1836, and through that year and 1837 the wages of the father and his three children averaged about 24*s.* per week. In 1838 their united income averaged 27*s.*, until 4th June, when Bristol, in driving his team, met with an accident which rendered him incapable of work for a long period; instead, however, of being sent to the dispensary, he was attended by my own surgeon, and by his advice was provided with nutritious food till he was able to move about again.

Being however of a scrofulous habit, as the professional gentleman informed me, Bristol did not regain his strength, and was therefore sent, on the 8th of August, to the infirmary at Manchester as an in-patient, having been previously provided with suitable clothing and money for his journey. From the time of his being hurt to the day of his removal, I paid from 12*s.* to 14*s.* per week to a respectable family, who lived near him, and who supplied him to that amount with food and other necessaries. It turned out, as these neighbours discovered who looked after him, that he was altogether neglected at home, either through the carelessness or incapacity of his attendants (in proof of which he actually died in his boots), and that the more others did for him the less were his family disposed to do. The bed and furniture, with which he had been supplied at my cost when the accident occurred, were represented as being in a most filthy state; and it was only when the younger children were found to be in habits of irregularity, and absenting themselves from school, that some members of my family, who had long been furnishing them with clothes, &c., and paying their weekly school pence, declined any further to interest themselves on their behalf. Bristol, early in 1839, thought he could manage, though still lame, to do some work, and he was forthwith employed at 7*s.* 6*d.* per week; he had, however, the additional misfortune to hurt his thumb, and was never again able to return to his labour, and died about the 1st of October. He continued, nevertheless, to receive his wages to the Saturday (the pay-day) preceding his death; the average for each week being then, as we were working short time, 5*s.* 10½*d.* for himself, and for his children about 12*s.* In addition to this sum, an overlooker of ours was instructed to visit him occasionally, and to give him relief; so that at the time of his death the family must have been receiving at the least 21*s.* per week; he saw Bristol the day before his death, and brought from him a message of thanks for the care and attention with which he had been treated.

This counter statement of "Bristol's case" I offer in answer to the false and calumnious charges which the "report and evidence" were manifestly intended to convey to the public; and I shall leave to you, sir, the duty of ascertaining upon what principle of fairness the parties, whoever they may be, who took down the evidence, could have proceeded, and by what rule of constitutional law or common justice the Board of Poor Law Commissioners can sanction a mode of inquiry so completely partial, so flagrantly unjust.

In her evidence, as printed, Ann Bristol says, "We had six children, but could get no work for them," whereas I have shown that they had work as early as possible after their arrival in Bolton; she also says, "We had our provisions of Mr. Yates, a provision dealer, who was overlooker to Mr. Bolling;" a base insinuation that I had some beneficial interest in this arrangement. The next paragraph runs thus: "Mr. Bolling told Mr. Yates that he must let us have some provisions, and he would see him paid; Mr. Yates allowed us to have provisions for some time, but at last he refused to supply us, and said that Mr. Bolling had refused to pay him as he had promised. I now work for Mrs. Yates, at washing at half price, to pay the amount which Mr. Bolling refused to pay."

This evidence, if evidence it can be called, though reflecting so severely on my conduct, is taken down and published on the bare word of a person, into whose character the parties conducting the investigation had taken no pains to inquire. It will be for Mr. Mott and his coadjutors at Bolton to explain why they did not test the truth of Ann Bristol's statement, when they might easily have done so by requesting the attendance of some person connected with our factory. They would then have learned, that an amount, in provisions, which at this distance of time it is impossible correctly to give (say from 2*l.* to 4*l.*), was guaranteed to Thomas Yates, and punctually paid to him, making so much more, in addition to what had already been done for Bristol's family, but that we declined (as any reasonable man under such circumstances would) to become liable for the debt they previously owed, or for any they might afterwards incur. Finally, I would observe, that as Bristol died in October 1839, I am at a loss to conceive what his case, were it even true, as it is false, had to do with Mr. Mott's mission to Bolton in 1841.

I have endeavoured to lay before you, as briefly as possible, those points of which I think I have just reason to complain, in the published correspondence between the Home Office and the Poor Law Commissioners on the subject of distress in Bolton; and I confidently anticipate from that department of the Government over which you preside such an investigation into the peculiar circumstances of that inquiry by the Poor Law Commissioners, as shall not merely

do

do justice to the individual who feels himself aggrieved, but shall at the same time satisfy the public.

Perhaps I ought to add, that I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Mott, and I feel unwilling to suppose him influenced by the animus which evidently pervades in Bristol's case, both the collection of evidence and the construction of the report; still I cannot help thinking he has been most unduly biassed.

I certainly, however, have cause to suspect that the injustice I complain of has its origin chiefly in another quarter. The communications made to me by the Poor Law secretary, when I was in London, clearly evinced a very decided party feeling, and the evidence which he showed me, taken on a former investigation by himself into the distribution of relief to the poor of Bolton, savoured strongly of a partial spirit. That evidence was in a printed form, but I am not aware that it was ever published; at all events, injustice has been done, into which, I am convinced, you will see reason to inquire.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Bolling.*

Right Hon.
Sir James Graham, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

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Gentlemen, Manchester, 7 February 1842.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Board's letter, dated 29th January, forwarding to me a communication from Wm. Bolling, Esq., of Bolton, to the Right honourable Sir James Graham, Bart., complaining of the report and evidence, which in discharge of my duty I submitted to your Board on 24th September last, with reference to the inquiry I was directed to make into the cases of severe distress at Bolton.

In reply, I have the honour to offer the following observations:—

Mr. Bolling complains that an insinuation is thrown out that James Bristol fell into bad hands, because he was not under the protection of the migration agency, and doubts whether such a family as Bristol's could have obtained permanent employment at 30 *s.* per week.

That the report and evidence were manifestly intended to convey false and calumnious charges.

Mr. Bolling further states, that at the time of Bristol's death the family must have been receiving at least 21 *s.* per week, and is at a loss to conceive what Bristol's case, who died in October 1839, "had to do with Mr. Mott's mission to Bolton in 1841."

I should extremely regret if any part of my report has been considered as imputing improper motives to any gentleman in the Bolton Union. I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Bolling. I purposely abstained, as I have on all other occasions, from indulging in any party feelings whatever, and the only "coadjutors" I had, or wished to have, at Bolton, in pursuing the inquiry, were Mr. Woodhouse, the clerk to the Board of Guardians, and the relieving and other officers of the Union, in whose presence the woman Bristol's evidence was taken in the board-room of the guardians.

I made no remark on Bristol's evidence in my report with reference to Mr. Bolling; and as regards the wages of such a family at the time they came from Wiltshire, I was guided in my opinion by the numerous families for whom employment was obtained by Mr. Muggeridge, the migration agent. On examining the relieving officers' books, I found that Bristol's family had been twice under the notice of the guardians; first in August 1839, when the family were said to be in the receipt of 15 *s.* 6 *d.* per week, upon which occasion 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per week were ordered for one month, and an offer made to remove the family back to Wiltshire. The second application was made the first week in October following. I enclose copy of the relieving officer's application and report-book, wherein the particulars of the case are inserted, by which it appeared that the family consisted of James Bristol, his wife, and six children, and they are thus described:— "James Bristol, wholly disabled, his thumb taken off, and lame; Ann Bristol, wholly disabled, bad leg; Jane, a cripple, and sick of "St. Anthony's fire;" no sick-club; Sarah, a reeler, earns 4 *s.* per week; Betsey, a piecer, earns 4 *s.* per week; Johanna, nine and a half years old; John, six and a half years old; George,

George, four and a half years old; making the income of the family 8*s.* per week for eight persons; rent, 2*s.* 3*d.* per week."

The relieving officer, Mr. Brown, on witnessing the distress of the family, gave as immediate relief 7*s.*

When the case was brought before the guardians, the relieving officer's book contained the following additional remarks: "Since visiting this case, James Bristol is dead; given an order for coffin and dues; a very bad case; no bedding scarcely."

It appears that on hearing the case, the guardians confirmed the relief given by the relieving officer, 7*s.*, the coffin, and dues 16*s.* 10*d.*; gave bedding also, amounting to 40*s.*, and ordered 10*s.* per week for the family, and then proceeded as described in Mr. Brown's former evidence.

The deception practised by the poor to excite charitable assistance is, unfortunately, too evident, and their statements can but too seldom be depended upon; but I respectfully submit that in this case, when the destitution was so clearly established to the satisfaction of the guardians; when the strictest investigation appeared to have been made into the circumstances at the time the case occurred; when the evidence of the woman Bristol, moreover, was given in the most artless manner, in the presence of Mr. Brown, the relieving officer, and others, who never raised the least doubt or objection to her statement; I had no occasion to suspect the correctness of the report of the relieving officer, or the woman's evidence, and I confess I did not consider that any further reference or inquiry were necessary.

I have, since the receipt of the Board's letter, again examined Mr. Brown (whose evidence, as also further particulars obtained by him from the Widow Bristol, I send herewith), and it will be seen that he states, "From the state of misery and want which the family exhibited on my visit in October 1839, confirmed as their destitution was by their neighbours, I could not have thought it possible that they were in receipt of 21*s.* per week. I could only ascertain that their income amounted to 8*s.* per week for eight of them; in fact, I was told by their neighbours, and I believed, that the family were in a state of great destitution."

With regard to the doubt expressed by Mr. Bolling as to what Bristol's case (who died in 1839) had to do with my mission to Bolton in 1841, I beg to state that it was the first case alluded to by the Honourable Member, Dr. Bowring, and is reported as follows:

"I visited," says the informant, "a man, with his wife, and four children; I found two of the children lying on a piece of straw, without any covering; I went up-stairs, and found the father dead on the boards, without bedding or bed. His wife told me that the day before he died he wished for a little bread and cheese, but in vain; the neighbours said he died for want of food."

Mr. Naisby, who admitted he was the informant alluded to by Dr. Bowring, told me that the case here described was that of John Bristol's family, which enabled me to refer to the particulars in the books of the guardians.

The report was published early in October, and I regret that Mr. Bolling's denial of the evidence has been delayed so long. I should have taken blame to myself had I omitted to have offered such respectable testimony as that of Mr. Bolling's in contradiction to the statement of the woman Bristol.

I directed the relieving officer to make personal application to Mr. Bolling for any further particulars which he might deem it necessary to give. Mr. Bolling said, as he had already given a statement of facts relative to Bristol's family, he did not think it necessary to give any further information.

In this state, therefore, I must leave the case.

I forbear to offer any remark on the conflicting evidence given with reference to this unfortunate family.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *Charles Mott.*

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Evidence of *Benjamin Brown*, Relieving Officer, Bolton Union, taken 5th February 1842.

I DO not recollect having seen or known anything of the man Bristol, whose case I have before given evidence upon, until August 1839, when I find his name upon my books.

He

He represented that he had been in Mr. Bolling's employment as a card-room hand.

I visited his house, and found that he was in bad circumstances; I therefore brought his case before the Board, who ordered him relief in the way before described.

I did not apply to Mr. Bolling to know whether he was out of work, or as to his character; but from inquiries I made of the neighbours, his statement was correct, and his distress proved by them.

His second application was made on the 2d March, in the quarter ending December 1839.

From the state of misery and want which the family exhibited on my visit in October, confirmed as their destitution was by their neighbours, I could not have thought it possible they were in receipt of 21*s.* per week.

I could only ascertain 8*s.* per week for eight of them; and in fact I was told by their neighbours, and I believed, that they were at the time in a state of great destitution.

I much regret that I did not apply to Mr. Bolling at the time, but the case occurred at the commencement of the Bolton Union.

I never now allow cases to occur without applying to their employers, as far as possible to ascertain the earnings and characters of the applicants; but in Bristol's case, the destitution appeared so urgent, that I immediately relieved the family with 7*s.*, and reported the particulars to the Board, whereupon the proceedings were taken as I have described.

I recollect well the evidence of the Widow Ann Bristol, taken by you in my presence; it is correctly printed, and exactly what she stated.

I have applied to Mr. Bolling for any further particulars he might wish to offer.

Mr. B. said he had already made a statement of the facts, and did not think it necessary to give any further information.

Taken 5th February 1842, by
*C. Mott.*

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Sir, Bolton, 5 February 1842.

Since you were here, have re-examined Ann Bristol; the enclosed, signed with my initials, is the examination, which is as correct as possibly can be from the information I can derive from her.

I am, &c.

Charles Mott, Esq. (signed) *B. Brown.*

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Taken by Mr. *Brown*, Relieving Officer, Bolton Union.

*Ann Bristol* saith: My husband, James, came to Bolton from Alton Priors, in Wiltshire, in August 1836; he obtained employment as a carter at Mr. Bolling's, at 15*s.* per week. About a fortnight after he entered into Mr. Bolling's service he sent me a letter stating he had got work.

Mr. Bolling advanced my husband 2*l.* to assist him in sending for me and family to Bolton, which was about three months after he first arrived here; the 2*l.* was paid back by instalments of 2*s.* 6*d.* each fortnight from his wages. Sarah, one of my daughters, was employed by Mr. Bolling almost as soon as we came, and the other children who were able to work soon after.

About the latter end of April or beginning of May 1838, my husband met with an accident, in consequence of one of the horses treading upon his foot, which ever after made him walk lame; and in the June following met with another accident by having two of his ribs broke and two displaced; the accident occurred in Bridge-street. He was brought home in a gig, and Mr. Wolstenholme, surgeon, came to my house to attend him immediately after, at the expense of Mr. Bolling; he attended him about nine weeks before he went to the Manchester Infirmary. After the accident Mr. Bolling paid me 15*s.* per week on account of my husband, for about five weeks, which was then discontinued, and the remaining four weeks before he went to the infirmary Mr. Moscrop, an overlooker of Mr. Bolling's, sent my husband dinners every day, and now and then gave him money.

My husband was in the infirmary about five weeks; after he came home we had some meat from Mr. Yates's shop for (I think) about six or eight weeks, by the orders of Mr. John Poole, one of Mr. Bolling's book-keepers, which was then discontinued; we were then owing money to Mr. Yates of our own previous contracting.

My husband was nearly three quarters of a year before he was able to follow any employment; he then went to solicit Mr. Bollings for work, who at once engaged him as a scutcher in the card room at 1*s.* 3*d.* per day; the mill was then working only four and five days per week. He was employed as a scutcher for about seven months.

On the Saturday fortnight previous to my husband's death, which took place on the Tuesday following, his thumb was caught in the machinery, which disabled him from working. Mr. Chadwick, surgeon, attended him by Mr. Bolling's directions, and I cannot recollect any wages whatever being paid us on my husband's account the last two weeks of his sickness, but I believe there was not; on the Saturday previous to the Tuesday on which he died, Mr. Charles Needham, one of Mr. Bolling's overlookers, came to see him, and gave him (I believe it was) 2*s.* 10*d.*, which he had earned the same week he had his thumb injured by the machinery. On the Monday before his death, Mr. Greenhalgh, one of Mr. Bolling's overlookers, came to see him, and gave him 1*s.* out of his own pocket, and on the same day Mrs. Needham came to see us, and gave my husband 1*s.*, which she

SCHEDULE (D.)—Form 24. APPLICATIONS AND REPORTS - - - - - - - - - -

*Note.*—The Numbers are first to be inserted opposite to the name in the Relief List, and then inserted here. When the Parent is numbered the Children are not to be numbered, and no Applicant to whom out-relief is refused, or to whom the house is offered, is to be numbered.

The Figures refer to the corresponding Columns in Pauper Description Book.

| 2. Nos. in Relief List. | 2. Names of Applicants, their Wives, and Children under 16, dependent on them. | 3. Age. | 4. Residence, where, or with whom. | 5. CALLING. | 6. If Adult, whether Single, Married, Widow, or Widower; if Child, whether Orphan, Deserted, or Bastard. | 7. If Able-bodied. | 8. If partially or wholly Disabled, and the Description of Disability. | 9. IF RECEIVING Medical Relief. | 9. IF RECEIVING Regular or Temporary Relief or any other, and what Relief from Clubs, Charities, Institutions, Government Pensions, or otherwise. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Copy.) | For the Quarter ending June 24, 1839. | | | | | | | | |
| | Bristol, James - | 38 | - Haslam-yard. Rent, 2*s.* 3*d.* per week. Belongs Houghton Preers, Wiltshire. | -- Short time, scutching room. | married - | no | partially lame - - | - - | - - from pa where he beld nothing. |
| | Ann, wife - | 38 | - - - - | washes - - - | - - - | — | - - - - | - - | - - |
| | Sarah - - | 17 | - - - - | reels, short time - | - - - | — | - - - - | - - | - - |
| | Jane - - | 14 | - - - - | reels at home - - | - - - | — | cripple; sores in knee | - - | - - |
| | Betsey - | 12 | - - - - | piecer, short time - | - - - | — | - - - - | - - | - - |
| | Johanna - | 9 | | | | | | | |
| | John - - | 6 | | | | | | | |
| | George - | 3 | | | | | | | |
| (Copy.) | For December Quarter, 1839. | | | | | | | | |
| | Bristol, James - - | 39 | -- Haslam-yard, in a house; rent, 2*s.* 3*d.* belongs Halton Preers, Wiltshire. | scutcher - - | married - | no | - - wholly; thumb taken off, and lame. | - - | - from parish thing. |
| | Ann, wife - | 39 | - - - - | washerwoman - - | - - - | — | wholly; bad leg - | yes | - - |
| | Sarah - - | 18 | - - - - | reeler - - - | - - - | — | - - - - | - - | - - |
| | Jane - - | 16 | - - - - | reeler - - - | - - - | — | -- cripple, and sick of St. Anthony's fire. | yes | - - |
| | Betsey - | 14 | - - - | piecer - - - | - - - | — | - - - - | - - | - - |
| | Johanna - | 9½ | - - - - | - - - - | - - - | — | - - - - | - - | - - |
| | John - - | 6½ | | | | | | | |
| | George - | 4 | | | | | | | |

she said had been sent him by Mr. John Poole; during the fortnight my husband was sick, no one brought us food till the Monday evening before he died, when Mrs. Lomax's servant brought some; after my husband was dead, Mr. Greenhalgh, overlooker, came to my house, and said some person had given him 5*s.*, which he was to give me, and Miss Moscrop brought me some bacon and a few apples, which were for a daughter who was sick of erysipelas.

Mr. Moscrop (an overlooker at Mr Bolling's) and his family were very good to me and my family for a long time after my husband's decease, in giving me food and other necessaries, which they discontinued after the case was published in the papers.

The fortnight my husband, daughter, and myself were sick, my husband was in no sick club, and to the best of my recollection Sarah and Betsy were earning from 7*s.* to 8*s.* per week, which was all the income we had for the family to subsist upon.

When the relieving officer came to visit us, which was on the Saturday before he died (the same day the application was made to him by a neighbour), he relieved us with 7*s.*; and on the Monday after, Mr. Haslam, our landlord, came for some rent we were owing, and I believe, out of the 7*s.* (he was so urgent), I gave him 4*s.*; at the time there were some women in the house, who said, "I think you ought to leave her some money, instead of taking it from her, and the family in such a state of destitution."

*B. B.*

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- - - - - - - - - - - - Parish of *Great Bolton.*

| 9. | 10 and 11. | 1. | | | | | | Relief ordered by Guardians. | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Present Cause of seeking Relief, or ture of Application. | OBSERVATIONS and Names of Relations liable under 43d Elizabeth, distinguishing those apparently capable of assisting the Applicant. | Number in Pauper Description Book. | Present Weekly Earnings, or other Income of Applicants, and Family dependent on them. | Relief given (if any) at the discretion of Relieving Officer. Value in kind. | Week when given. | Money. | Kind. Quantity and Description. | Kind. Value. | For what Time allowed, or Nature of the Order made. | Week when Order made. | Initials of Clerk. | OBSERVATIONS. |
| | | | *s. d.* | *s. d.* | | *s. d.* | | *s.* | | | | |
| Not sufficient coming in to maintain em on, and 4*l.* ving to Mr. Haslam r rent. | - - None liable. He used to have 15*s.* per week at Bolling's, but since he had his ribs broke and knee hurt, only earns 1*s.* per day. | - - | 4 - | - - | - | 2 6 | - - - | - | one month - | 7 | J. W. | - - write to his parish. |
| - - - | - - - - | - - | 1 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| - - - | - - - - | - - | 4 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| - - - | - - - - | - - | 2 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| - - - | - - - - | - - | 3 - | | | | | | | | | |
| - applies on account f himself; thumb aken off; wife a bad g, and Jane sick of t. Anthony's fire, nd in no sick club. | - - Belongs Halton Preers; none liable. Since visiting this case, James Bristol is dead; given an order for coffin and dues; a very bad case; no bedding scarcely. | - - | - - | 7 - | 2 | - - | - - - | - | - - - | - | J. W. | |
| - - - - | - - - - | - - | - - | - - | - | 10 - | - - - | - | four weeks - | 2 | J. W. | - - suspended |
| - - - - | - - - - | - - | 4 - | 16 10 | 4 | - - | Coffin & dues - | - | - - - | - | J. W. | order of removal. |
| - - - - | - - - - | - - | - - | - - | - | - - | Bed & bedding | 40 | - - - | 4 | J. W. | |
| - - - - | - - - - | - - | 4 - | 6 - | 6 | 9 - | - - - | - | regular | 7 | R. Y. G. | |
| - - - - | - - - - | - - | - - | 6 - | 7 | - - | - - - | - | - - - | - | R. Y. G. | |

Sir, Bolton, 12 February 1842.

Agreeably with your request, I beg to offer the following information regarding the case of James Bristol. I believe it is nearly two years since the poor man died, and he met with his death under the following circumstances :—He was in the employ of Messrs. Bolling, in the capacity of carter, and during the act of attaching some chains belonging to one of his horses, he got his thumb entangled, and when the horse began to draw, it dragged off a portion of his thumb, a little below the first joint, producing considerable laceration. He survived about two or three weeks, and during that period repeatedly attended at my surgery to have his wounds dressed, up to the morning preceding his demise. I visited him at his home several times on the day he died, and from all appearances the man and his family were labouring under great privations, for a greater state of wretchedness I do not remember ever witnessing; although, literally speaking, I do not consider that the man can be considered to have died from starvation. The cause of death was sufficiently evident, being occasioned by a formidable and fatal affection, viz. tetanus, more commonly known by the appellation of lock-jaw.

All lacerated wounds predispose towards lock-jaw, and if the man had been in the most affluent circumstances he might have equally shared the same fate.

I am, &c.

Mr. Woodhouse, (signed) *Sam^l Taylor Chadwick.*
Clerk of the Bolton Union.

The cause of death in the register is stated to be "inflammation."

# WORKING CLASSES (QUEEN'S LETTER).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 27 May 1842;—*for*,

COPY of a LETTER addressed by Order of HER MAJESTY to His Grace the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, dated the 11th day of May 1842, for a Collection in Aid of the Subscriptions entered into for the Relief of the WORKING CLASSES in *England* and *Scotland*; together with a COPY of the LETTER of the LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY to the SUFFRAGAN BISHOPS.

(Copy.)

HIS GRACE the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, for a Collection in Aid of the Subscriptions entered into for the Relief of the Working Classes in *England* and *Scotland*.

VICTORIA R.

MOST Reverend Father in God, Our right trusty and right entirely beloved Councillor, We greet you well: WHEREAS in some Districts in England and Scotland many of the Working Classes have suffered, and continue to suffer, severe distress; and whereas many of Our Subjects have entered into voluntary Subscriptions for their relief, and have at the same time humbly prayed Us to issue Our Royal Letters, directed to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Archbishop of York, authorizing them to promote contributions within their several Provinces for the same benevolent purpose:

We, taking the premises into Our Royal consideration, and being always ready to give the best encouragement and countenance to such humane and charitable undertakings, are graciously pleased to condescend to their request; and We do hereby direct, that these Our Letters be communicated by you to the several Suffragan Bishops within your Province, expressly requiring them to take care that publication be made hereof, on such Sunday in the present or in the ensuing month, and in such places within their respective Dioceses, as the said Bishops shall appoint; and that upon this occasion the Ministers in each Parish do effectually excite their Parishioners to a liberal contribution, which shall be collected the week following at their respective dwellings by the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor in each Parish; and the Ministers of the several Parishes are to cause the sums so collected to be paid immediately into the hands of the Bank of England, to be accounted for by them, and applied to the carrying on and promoting the above-mentioned good designs. And so We bid you very heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the 11th day of May 1842, in the fifth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

*J. R. G. Graham.*

Whitehall, May 28, 1842.

*S. M. Phillipps.*

To the Most Reverend Father in God, Our Right Trusty and Right Entirely Beloved Councillor, William Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England and Metropolitan.

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My Lord, Lambeth Palace, 20 May 1842.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a Copy of the Queen's Letter, authorizing me to take proper measures for promoting Subscriptions within my Province for the relief of the Working Classes in some districts of England and Scotland, and a Copy of the Statement transmitted to me by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, giving some particulars of the distress generally referred to in Her Majesty's Letter.

It is my duty to request that your Lordship will have the goodness to cause a Copy of the Queen's Letter, and of the accompanying Statement, to be sent to the officiating Minister of every Church and Chapel within your Diocese, and to request that the Queen's Letter may be read by him from the desk in his Church or Chapel, and in every place of worship in his Parish (if there be any besides the Parish Church), on such Sunday before the first day of July next as he may judge most convenient.



And

And I further request that your Lordship will call upon your Clergy to give full effect to Her Majesty's gracious intentions by earnest exhortation from the pulpit, and to make known and enforce as widely and strongly as possible the claims of the sufferers on the charity of their Christian brethren.

You will be pleased also to point out to your Clergy, that within three weeks after the collection the amount collected is to be paid into the Bank of England, or its Branches in the country, or by Post-office orders addressed and made payable to the Cashiers of the Bank of England, London.

I enclose a Copy of the Letter which I intend to send to the Clergy of my own Diocese on the occasion.

The Queen's Printer, whose address is Printers-street, Gough-square, London, has received directions to print and forward to the Clergy of your Diocese such Letter as your Lordship may be pleased to prepare, together with a Copy of the Queen's Letter and of the Statement.

As the time limited by the Queen's Letter for making the collection is very short, I trust you will have the goodness to send your letter on an early day to the Queen's Printer, that it may be circulated forthwith.

I remain,

My Lord,

Your affectionate Brother,

The Lord Bishop of_____ (signed) *W. Cantuar.*

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WORKING CLASSES (QUEEN'S LETTER).

COPY of a LETTER addressed by Order of HER MAJESTY to the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, for a COLLECTION in Aid of the Subscriptions for the Relief of the WORKING CLASSES.

(*Mr. Hume.*)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,*
29 *June* 1842.

383.

# DISTRESS.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 17 June 1842;—*for*,

A RETURN to show the AMOUNT of GRANTS or of LOANS of PUBLIC MONEY, with the Amount and the Date of each, which may have been made in aid of the DISTRESSED in any Part of *Great Britain* since 1825, and whether made as a Grant or a Loan, and in the latter case, to state if the same has been repaid; also, the Authority under which these were made, and whether the Grant or Loan, as the case may be, has been communicated to Parliament, or to either House thereof.

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Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, 8 August 1842.

G. CLERK.

(*Mr. Wallace.*)

*Ordered, by* The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 12 *August* 1842.

# No. 1.—TREASURY.

A RETURN of all AIDS afforded by GOVERNMENT for RELIEF of DISTRESS, with and without a specific Vote of The HOUSE OF COMMONS, from 1st January 1826 to the present Time; specifying, 1st, The Date at which the Aid was given, and whether Parliament was then sitting; 2d, The Place to which the Aid was sent; 3d, The Articles sent; 4th, The Value of the Articles; 5th, The Circumstances requiring Aid; 6th, Whether advanced as a Loan or as a Gift; 7th, If as a Loan, on what Security; and, 8th, The Date of Repayment;—(so far as relates to the TREASURY.)

| Whether Parliament was sitting. | Date. | Name of Place. | How relieved. | Amount. | Total, and out of what Fund. | Circumstances requiring Aid. | Whether advanced as Gift or Loan. | If as Loan, on what Security. | When repaid. | OBSERVATIONS. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | £. s. d. | | | | | | |
| Parliament sitting | 9 Feb. 1826 | Spitalfields | in money | 1,000 – – | -- 16,960*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* casual revenues of the Crown, being his Majesty George IV.'s donations towards the relief of the distressed poor. | -- distress, occasioned by the want of employment. | gift | -- | -- | -- the amount of these payments is stated in the Accounts presented to Parliament in 1830, in the settlement of the Civil List of Will. 4, No. 17, of 1830–31. |
| | 4 Apr. „ | - ditto | - ditto | 1,000 – – | | | | | | |
| | 26 Apr. „ | Macclesfield | - ditto | 1,000 – – | | | | | | |
| | 26 Apr. „ | Blackburn | - ditto | 1,000 – – | | | | | | |
| | 1 May „ | Rochdale | - ditto | 500 – – | | | | | | |
| | 2 May „ | -- manufacturing districts, general subscription. | - ditto | 2,000 – – | | | | | | |
| | 2 May „ | Craven | - ditto | 500 – – | | | | | | |
| | 9 May „ | Bolton | - ditto | 500 – – | | | | | | |
| | 12 May „ | Glasgow | - ditto | 1,000 – – | | | | | | |
| | 12 May „ | Paisley | - ditto | 500 – – | | | | | | |
| | 15 May „ | Dublin | - ditto | 500 – – | | | | | | |
| | 15 May „ | Drogheda | - ditto | 200 – – | | | | | | |
| Not sitting | 12 June „ | Manchester | - ditto | 1,000 – – | | | | | | |
| | 15 June „ | Lower Darwen | - ditto | 100 – – | | | | | | |
| | 15 June „ | Thornton | - ditto | 50 – – | | | | | | |
| | 21 July „ | Spitalfields | - ditto | 1,000 – – | | | | | | |
| | 14 Aug. „ | distressed Irish | - ditto | 3,000 – – | | | | | | |
| Sitting | 21 Feb. 1827 | distressed operatives | - ditto | 100 – – | | | | | | |
| Not sitting | 25 Sept. „ | -- Manufacturers' Relief Committee. | - ditto | 2,010 16 5 | | | | | | |
| | | | £. | 16,960 16 5 | | | | | | |
| Not sitting | 8 Sept. 1826 | -- the London Committee for the Relief of Distressed Manufacturers | - ditto | 10,000 – – | 15,000*l.* | -- distress among the operative manufacturers. | loan | -- no security. | -- 23 June 1827. | -- a resolution of the Committee was passed, stating that they would repay the money if a sufficient surplus should remain in their hands, which was done accordingly. |
| | 13 Jan. 1827 | | | 5,000 – – | | | | | | |
| Sitting | -- 13 June to 17 Aug. 1831. | -- Westport, Newport, Castlebar, Galway and other places in the counties of Galway and Mayo | -- by the purchase and distribution of potatoes and other provisions, small sums distributed to numerous families, contributions to soup establishments, and money paid to the central committees of Mayo and Galway | 14,867 16 10 | - | - | - | - | - | -- this money was advanced from time to time by the Commissioners of Victualling, and afterwards repaid to them out of the grant. |
| | | | -- money paid for potatoes purchased in Jersey, and shipped to Ireland | 1,634 12 7 | | | | | | |
| | | | -- freight of vessels conveying provisions, expenses of conducting the service, rent, postage, &c. &c. | 510 11 11 | | | | | | |
| Sitting | 23 Feb. 1832 | Dublin | -- money paid by direction of the Irish Government to the Relief Committee of the Mansion-house in Dublin for the relief of the poor in Dublin | 5,000 – – | -- 40,000*l.* voted by Parliament in 1831 for employment of the poor and relief of distress in Ireland. | -- distress, arising from scarcity of food and want of employment. | gift | -- | -- | -- in this and all the subsequent cases, the greater part of the provisions purchased were re-sold to the poor at low rates. The sums stated in this Account are the proportions ultimately defrayed by the public. |
| | 1831 and 1832 | -- Western districts of Ireland. | -- money expended under the direction of the Irish Government in employment of the poor on public works, &c., in the Western districts of Ireland | 17,986 18 8 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Ireland; viz.— | | | | | | | | |
| Sitting | May, June, July, August and September, 1835 | County Clare | money in aid of local subscriptions | 75 – – | 2,816 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.*, Civil Contingencies. | distress, produced by the failure of the potatoe crop. | gift | | | this money was in the first instance advanced from funds under the direction of the Lord Lieutenant, and afterwards repaid from Civil Contingencies. In this, and all the following cases, the payments were stated to Parliament in the annual accounts of Civil Contingencies. |
| | | Cork | | 20 – – | | | | | | |
| | | Donegal | | 50 – – | | | | | | |
| | | Galway | | 95 – – | | | | | | |
| | | Mayo | | 207 18 10 | | | | | | |
| | | Kerry | | 65 – – | | | | | | |
| | | | Aid afforded to loan funds | 350 – – | | | | | | |
| | | | Expended in employing poor on public works | 1,600 – – | | | | | | |
| | | | Purchase of potatoes | 353 17 10 | | | | | | |
| | | | £. | 2,816 16 8 | | | | | | |
| Sitting | 15 July to 31 August 1836. | North-west coast of Donegal | in the purchase of oatmeal, small sums given to the poor, and expenses of the inquiry | 1,193 10 1 | 1,193 *l.* 10 *s.* 1 *d.*, Civil Contingencies. | distress, arising from the failure of the crops. | gift | | | the service was conducted by Sir John Hill. |
| Sitting | April to August 1836. | North-west coast of Donegal | in the purchase of potatoes and oatmeal | 1,956 12 4 | 2,518 *l.* 8 *s.* 1 *d.*, Civil Contingencies. | failure of the crops | gift | | | the money was advanced in the first instance by direction of the Lord Lieutenant, and afterwards repaid. The service was carried on under his direction. |
| | | | in money, and expenses of conveying and distributing the provisions, &c. | 561 15 9 | | | | | | |
| | | | £. | 2,518 8 1 | | | | | | |
| Sitting up to 17 July | June to September 1837. | North-west coast of Donegal | in the purchase of oatmeal and potatoes, &c. | 932 3 10 | 1,044 *l.* 5 *s.* 8 *d.*, Civil Contingencies. | failure of the crops | gift | | | the service was conducted by the Inspector-general of the Coast Guard. |
| | | | medical attendance on the sick poor | 112 1 10 | | | | | | |
| | | | £. | 1,044 5 8 | | | | | | |
| Sitting | April, May and June 1837. | the Highlands and Western Islands of Scotland | money, in aid of local subscriptions, for the purchase of oats, corn and potatoes, and expenses of conducting the service | 6,622 9 10 | 6,749 *l.* 12 *s.* 8 *d.*, Civil Contingencies. | distress | gift | | | this service was conducted by Sir John Hill. |
| | | | further expense of inquiry into the state of the destitution | 127 2 10 | | – – – – | – – – – | – – – – | – – – – | this service was performed by Mr. Graham. |
| | | | £. | 6,749 12 8 | | | | | | |
| Sitting | 21 June to 13 August 1839 | Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Cork, Clare, Roscommon, Kerry | money, in aid of local subscriptions, expended in employing the poor on public works | 1,440 – – | 2,501 *l.* 10 *s.* 5 *d.*, Civil Contingencies. | distress, occasioned by the partial failure of the potato crop on the West coast, and by a violent storm on 6th January 1839, which scattered and destroyed the fodder for the cattle. | gift | | | the service was conducted by Captain Chads, R. N. |
| | | | money given to the sick and infirm and most necessitous poor | 400 – – | | | | | | |
| | | | purchase of potatoes, and other relief | 300 – – | | | | | | |
| | | | Remuneration, and expenses of conducting the inquiry | 361 10 5 | | | | | | |
| | | | £. | 2,501 10 5 | | | | | | |
| | | Kerry— Dingle, Bandon, Valentia | purchase of potatoes and other relief. | 376 12 3 | 376 *l.* 12 *s.* 3 *d.*, Civil Contingencies. | ditto | gift | | | the service was conducted by the Inspector-general of the Coast Guard, Ireland. |
| Sitting | 2 June 1842 | Paisley | in money | 500 – – | 500 *l.*, Civil Contingencies. | distress | advance or loan. | none | 4 June | this item is introduced in order to adhere to the terms of the Order; but it can scarcely be called a loan, as the money was repaid within 48 hours after its advance. |

*Note*:—There have been several issues, during the period of this Account, for the relief of distress occasioned by calamitous events; such, for instance, as—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hurricanes in the West Indies | £. 100,000 | anno 1832. |
| Earthquake at Zante | £. 4,000 | „ 1840. |
| The Cholera | various sums | „ 1830, 1831-2. |
| Fever in Ireland (Grants to Hospitals) | £. 15,792 | „ 1827. |
| Ditto – – ditto | £. 5,529 | „ 1837, &c. |

But it is presumed they do not come within the meaning of the Order.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, 25 July 1842.

G. CLERK.

## No. 2.—ORDNANCE.

A RETURN of all AIDS afforded by GOVERNMENT (as far as relates to the ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT) for the RELIEF of DISTRESS, with and without a specific Vote of The HOUSE OF COMMONS, from the 1st January 1826 to the present Time.

| Date, and whether Parliament was sitting. | Place. | Articles advanced. | Value of Articles. | Circumstances requiring Aid. | Whether advanced as Gift or Loan. | If as Loan, on what Security. | When repaid. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Manchester | waistcoats, old - 250<br>cloth trowsers, old - 1,510<br>cloth gaiters, old - 1,510<br>half stockings, old - 230<br>great coats, old - 316<br>rugs, old - 177<br>blankets, old - 800<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 250<br>shirts, linen, old - 30<br>shirts, cotton, new - 18<br>shoes, pairs, new - 230 | £. s. d.<br>406 2 6<br>56 6 2 | - - - | old stores issued as a gift | - - | - - no payment m to the Ordnance. |
| | | £. | 462 8 8 | - - Distress in the manufacturing districts. | | | |
| | | | | - - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | | | - - 56 *l.* 6 *s.* 2 *d.* paid to the Ordna by the Lords of Treasury, 28th Ma 1827. |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Padiham | waistcoats, old - 80<br>cloth trowsers, old - 120<br>cloth gaiters, old - 100<br>half stockings, old - 100<br>great coats, old - 65<br>rugs, old - 30<br>blankets, old - 170<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 100<br>shirts, linen, old - 30<br>shoes, pairs, new - 100 | 63 10 5<br>22 18 4 | - - - | old stores issued as a gift | - - | - - no payment ma to the Ordnance. |
| | | £. | 86 8 9 | - - Distress in the manufacturing districts. | | | |
| | | | | - - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | | | - - 22 *l.* 18 *s.* 4 *d.* paid to the Ordna by the Lords of Treasury, 28th Ma 1827. |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Rochdale | waistcoats, old - 170<br>cloth trowsers, old - 540<br>cloth gaiters, old - 540<br>half stockings, old - 135<br>great coats, old - 108<br>rugs, old - 69<br>blankets, old - 295<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 110<br>shirts, linen, old - 20<br>shoes, pairs, new - 135 | 153 8 11<br>30 18 9 | - - - | old stores issued as a gift | - - | - - no payment ma to the Ordnance. |
| | | £. | 184 7 8 | - - Distress in the manufacturing districts. | | | |
| | | | | - - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | | | - - 30 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.* paid to the Ordna by the Lords of Treasury, 28th Ma 1827. |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Oldham | waistcoats, old - 170<br>cloth trowsers, old - 540<br>cloth gaiters, old - 540<br>half stockings, old - 135<br>great coats, old - 107<br>rugs, old - 68<br>blankets, old - 295<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 110<br>shirts, linen, old - 20<br>shoes, pairs, new - 135 | 153 4 8<br>30 18 9 | - - - | old stores issued as a gift | - - | - - no payment ma to the Ordnance. |
| | | £. | 184 3 5 | - - Distress in the manufacturing districts. | | | |
| | | | | - - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | | | - - 30 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.* paid to the Ordna by the Lords of Treasury, 28th Ma 1827. |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Skipton-in-Craven. | waistcoats, old - 360<br>cloth trowsers, old - 1,230<br>cloth gaiters, old - 1,230<br>half stockings, old - 300<br>great coats, old - 230<br>rugs, old - 150<br>blankets, old - 600<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 230<br>shirts, linen, old - 18<br>shirts, cotton, new - 52<br>shoes, pairs, new - 300 | 334 3 -<br>79 3 - | - - - | old stores issued as a gift | - - | - - no payment m to the Ordnance. |
| | | £. | 413 6 - | - - Distress in the manufacturing districts. | | | |
| | | | | - - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | | | - - 79 *l.* 3 *s.* repai the Ordnance by Lords of the Treas 28th March 1827. |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Ashton-under-Lyne. | waistcoats, old - 180<br>cloth trowsers, old - 570<br>cloth gaiters, old - 570<br>half stockings, old - 140<br>great coats, old - 100<br>rugs, old - 70<br>blankets, old - 350<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 110<br>shirts, linen, old - 30<br>shoes, pairs, new - 140 | 164 5 -<br>32 1 8 | - - - | old stores issued as a gift | - - | - - no payment m to the Ordnance. |
| | | £. | 196 6 8 | - - Distress in the manufacturing districts. | | | |
| | | | | - - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | | | - - 32 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.* re to the Ordnance by Lords of the Treas 28th March 1827. |

No. 2.—A RETURN of all Aids afforded by Government (as far as relates to the Ordnance Department) for the Relief of Distress, &c.—*continued.*

| Date, and whether Parliament was sitting. | Place. | Articles advanced. | Value of Articles. | Circumstances requiring Aid. | Whether advanced as Gift or Loan. | If as Loan, on what Security. | When repaid. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | £. s. d. | | | | |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Blackburn | waistcoats, old - 360<br>cloth trowsers, old - 1,320<br>cloth gaiters, old - 1,340<br>half stockings, old - 320<br>great coats, old - 254<br>rugs, old - 154<br>blankets, old - 660<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 250<br>shirts, linen, old - 30<br>shirts, cotton, new - 20<br>shoes, pairs, new - 320 | 360 19 6<br>77 6 8 | - - - - - Distress in the manufacturing districts.<br>- - - | old stores issued as a gift<br>- - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | - -<br>- - | - - no payment made to the Ordnance.<br>- - 77*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* repaid to the Ordnance by the Lords of the Treasury, 28th March 1827. |
| | | £. | 438 6 2 | | | | |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Bolton-le-Moors. | waistcoats, old - 290<br>cloth trowsers, old - 970<br>cloth gaiters, old - 970<br>half stockings, old - 250<br>great coats, old - 180<br>rugs, old - 114<br>blankets, old - 470<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 200<br>shirts, linen, old - 30<br>shirts, cotton, new - 10<br>shoes, pairs, new - 250 | 265 16 4<br>59 5 10 | - - - - - Distress in the manufacturing districts.<br>- - - | old stores issued as a gift<br>- - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | - -<br>- - | - - no payment made to the Ordnance.<br>- - 59*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* repaid to the Ordnance by the Lords of the Treasury, 28th March 1827. |
| | | £. | 325 2 2 | | | | |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Bradford | waistcoats, old - 300<br>cloth trowsers, old - 970<br>cloth gaiters, old - 970<br>half stockings, old - 240<br>great coats, old - 200<br>rugs, old - 120<br>blankets, old - 450<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 200<br>shirts, linen, old - 30<br>shirts, cotton, new - 20<br>shoes, pairs, new - 240 | 266 11 8<br>59 - - | - - - - - Distress in the manufacturing districts.<br>- - - | old stores issued as a gift<br>- - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | - -<br>- - | - - no payment made to the Ordnance.<br>- 59*l.* repaid to the Ordnance by the Lords of the Treasury, 28th March 1827. |
| | | £. | 325 11 8 | | | | |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Burnley | waistcoats, old - 310<br>cloth trowsers, old - 780<br>cloth gaiters, old - 780<br>half stockings, old - 200<br>great coats, old - 150<br>rugs, old - 110<br>blankets, old - 340<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 150<br>shirts, linen, old - 30<br>shirts, cotton, new - 22<br>shoes, pairs, new - 200 | 214 5 10<br>50 4 8 | - - - - - Distress in the manufacturing districts.<br>- - - | old stores issued as a gift<br>- - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | - -<br>- - | - - no payment made to the Ordnance.<br>- - 50*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* repaid to the Ordnance by the Lords of the Treasury, 28th March 1827. |
| | | £. | 264 10 6 | | | | |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Huddersfield | waistcoats, old - 300<br>cloth trowsers, old - 900<br>cloth gaiters, old - 900<br>half stockings, old - 310<br>great coats, old - 180<br>rugs, old - 120<br>blankets, old - 400<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 180<br>shirts, linen, old - 30<br>shirts, cotton, new - 20<br>shoes, pairs, new - 310 | 248 5 -<br>75 - 10 | - - - - - Distress in the manufacturing districts.<br>- - - | old stores issued as a gift<br>- - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | - -<br>- - | - - no payment made to the Ordnance.<br>- - 75*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* repaid to the Ordnance by the Lords of the Treasury, 28th March 1827. |
| | | £. | 323 5 10 | | | | |
| 1 Oct. 1826 | Dewsbury | waistcoats, old - 50<br>cloth trowsers, old - 170<br>cloth gaiters, old - 170<br>half stockings, old - 70<br>great coats, old - 50<br>rugs, old - 21<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 50<br>shirts, linen, old - 20<br>shoes, pairs, new - 70 | 42 7 -<br>16 - 10 | - - - - - Distress in the manufacturing districts.<br>- - - | old stores issued as a gift<br>- - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | - -<br>- - | - - no payment made to the Ordnance.<br>- - 16*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* repaid to the Ordnance by the Lords of the Treasury, 28th March 1827. |
| | | £. | 58 7 10 | | | | |

No. 2.—A RETURN of all Aids afforded by Government (as far as relates to the Ordnance Department) for the Relief of Distress, &c.—*continued.*

| Date, and whether Parliament was sitting. | Place. | Articles advanced. | Value of Articles. | Circumstances requiring Aid. | Whether advanced as Gift or Loan. | If as Loan, on what Security. | When repaid. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | £. s. d. | | | | |
| 1 Oct. 1826 - | Stockport - | waistcoats, old - - 180<br>cloth trowsers, old - - 380<br>cloth gaiters, old - - 380<br>half stockings, old - - 70<br>great coats, old - - 60<br>rugs, old - - - 47<br>blankets, old - - - 170<br>flannel waistcoats, old - 60<br>shirts, linen, old - - 20 | 102 4 10 | - - - Distress in the manufacturing districts. | old stores issued as a gift | - - | - - no payment made to the Ordnance. |
| | | shoes, pairs, new - - 70 | 16 - 10 | - - - | - - new articles paid for by the Treasury. | - - | - - 16 *l.* 0 *s.* 10 *d.* repaid to the Ordnance by the Lords of the Treasury, 28th March 1827. |
| | | £. | 118 5 8 | | | | |
| 5 Feb. 1830 - | Strangers' Friend Society. | blankets, old - - - 140<br>rugs, old - - - 60<br>waistcoats, old - - 100<br>shoes, pairs, old - - 85<br>ancle boots, pairs, old - 200<br>great coats, old - - 25 | 39 18 9 | - - distress in the metropolis. | old stores issued as a gift | - - | - - no payment made to the Ordnance. |
| 4 Feb. 1830 - | Mendicity Society. | blankets, old - - - 170<br>rugs, old - - - 30<br>shoes, pairs, old - - 85<br>ancle boots, pairs, old - 200<br>great coats, old - - 25<br>waistcoats, old - - 100 | 40 8 9 | - ditto - | - ditto - - - | - - | - ditto. |
| 17 Feb. 1830 - | Spitalfields - | blankets, old - - - 100<br>ancle boots, pairs, old - 150<br>gaiters, old - - - 1,000<br>flannel gowns, old - - 100 | 70 - - | - ditto - | - ditto - - - | - - | - ditto. |
| 6 Feb. 1830 - | Refuge for the Houseless Poor. | waistcoats, old - - 100<br>shoes, pairs, old - - 80<br>ancle boots, pairs, old - 200<br>great coats, old - - 5 | 27 5 10 | - ditto - | - ditto - - - | - - | - ditto. |
| 31 Jan. 1842 - | Spitalfields weavers. | blankets, old - - - 673<br>cases, bolster, old - - 500<br>paillasses, old - - 173<br>sheets, old - - - 1,000<br>shirts, flannel, old - - 471 | 194 - 10 | - - distress of the Spitalfields weavers. | - - old stores paid for by the Treasury. | - - | - - 194 *l.* 0 *d.* 10 *d.* repaid to the Ordnance by the Lords of the Treasury, 3d February 1842. |

Office of Ordnance, 29 June 1842.

By Order of the Master General and Board of Ordnance,

*R. Byham*, Secretary.

## No. 3.—COAST GUARD, IRELAND.

RETURN of AIDS afforded by GOVERNMENT for the RELIEF of DISTRESS, from 1st January 1826 to the present Time, so far as relates to AID afforded under the Direction of the COAST GUARD, *Ireland.*

| Date, and whether Parliament was sitting. | Place. | Articles advanced. | Value of Articles. | Circumstances requiring Aid. | Whether advanced as a Gift or Loan. | If as a Loan, on what Security. | When repaid. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1835: June to August - | Kerry:<br>Listowel - - - -<br>Valentia - - - -<br>Galway:<br>Clifden - - - -<br>Mayo:<br>Newport - - - -<br>Donegal:<br>Rubland - - - -<br>Guidore - - - -<br>Ballynass - - - - | - - potatoes and oatmeal. | about 1,300 *l.* | - - distress of the peasantry, in consequence of the failure of the crops. | - - loan of 500 *l.*, with which the purchases were made and re-sold, besides a quantity distributed gratuitously. | - nil - | - - balance paid into the Chief Secretary's office, January 1835. |
| 1836: April to Sept. - | Donegal:<br>Dunfanaghy - - -<br>Rubland - - - -<br>Guidore - - - -<br>Ballynass - - - - | - ditto - | about 4,500 *l.* | - ditto - | - ditto - 2,815 *l.* - | - nil - | - ditto - March 1837. |
| 1837: June to Sept. - | Donegal:<br>Innisbofin - - - -<br>Rubland - - - -<br>Buncrana - - - -<br>Killibegs - - - - | oatmeal - | not known - | - ditto - | - ditto - 1,155 *l.* 11 *s.* 8 *d.* | - nil - | - ditto - August 1837. |
| 1839: June to August - | Kerry:<br>Bandon - - - -<br>Dingle - - - -<br>Valentia - - - - | potatoes - | over 1,000 *l.* | - ditto - | - ditto - 626 *l.* 13 *s.* | - nil - | - - Balance paid in to the Paymaster of Civil Services, June 1841. |

Coast Guard Office, Custom House, Dublin, 1 July 1842.

*W. Neame*, Captain R. N. Deputy Inspector-General.

## No. 4.—BOARD OF WORKS, IRELAND.

A RETURN of all AIDS afforded by GOVERNMENT for the RELIEF of DISTRESS, with and without a specific Vote of The HOUSE OF COMMONS, from 1st January 1826 to the present Time; specifying, 1st, The Date at which the Aid was given; 2d, The Place to which the Aid was sent; 3d, The Articles sent; 4th, The Value of the Articles; 5th, The Circumstances requiring Aid; 6th, Whether advanced as a Loan or Gift; 7th, If a Loan, what Security; 8th, Date of Repayment;—(as far as relates to Aid afforded under the direction of the BOARD OF WORKS.)

| Date, and whether Parliament was sitting. | Place. | Articles advanced. | Value of Articles. | Circumstances requiring Aid. | Whether advanced as Gift or Loan. | If a Loan, what Security. | When repaid. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1836: 18 May - | At the Pass of Bealadangan, county of Galway. | -- 700*l.* issued by the Lord Lieutenant. | -- 483*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* was expended in wages of labour, and purchase of tools, &c. | -- general distress from scarcity. In this particular case the Commissioners of Public Works had reported the great utility of a work like this to the poor population of the neighbouring Islands, about 3,000 in number. | - gift. | | |
| 18 „ - - | The district adjacent to Belmullet, county Mayo. | -- 600*l.* issued by the Lord Lieutenant. | -- expended in wages of the poor population; in carrying into effect several short useful branches of road over an extensive district, care being taken to distribute wages as much as possible amongst those unemployed. | -- general distress from scarcity, which particularly affected this district; and several of these lines of road having been applied for under the 1 Vict. ineffectually, this opportunity of expending the Government bounty was seized on. | - gift. | | |
| 18 „ - - | The North-west coast of Donegal. | -- 300*l.* issued by the Lord Lieutenant. | -- expended in extending a work already commenced under 1 & 2 W. 4, c. 33, for a road from Malin's to Guidore. | -- general distress from scarcity, when an opportunity was thus afforded of rendering more permanent a useful work of improvement in a very impoverished district. | - gift. | | |
| 21 October - | The district of the Rosses, county Donegal. | -- 200*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* issued by the Lord Lieutenant to Commissioners of Public Works. | -- for payment of expenses of persons sent down by this Board at the instigation of Government to superintend the distribution of meal as wages, and the employment of persons on works, by which upwards of 2,000 perches of roads were constructed, and 2,200 repaired, whilst numerous sick and infirm persons were gratuitously relieved. The computed value of the meal was 650*l.*, and the number of persons relieved 40,000 (nearly). | -- unprecedented distress, from failure of provision and backwardness of harvest. | - gift. | | |
| 7 September | Same district, Ballinlass Committee. | -- 8*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* issued by the Lord Lieutenant to replace loss on sum advanced by the Commissioners of Public Works. | -- 100*l.* expended in purchase of meal and potatoes. | -- like distress, from want of means to buy provisions. | - loan - | -- guarantee of gentlemen of the Ballinlass committee. | -- 91*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* of this was repaid on the 2d Aug. 1836. |
| | | £. 1,808 2 2 | | | | | |

Office of Public Works, 28 June 1842.

*J. C. Walker*, Accountant.

# DISTRESS.

RETURN of the AMOUNT of GRANTS or LOANS of PUBLIC MONEY which may have been made in aid of the DISTRESSED in any Part of *Great Britain* since 1825; also the Authority under which they were made.

(*Mr. Wallace.*)

*Ordered, by* The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
12 *August* 1842.

577.

*Under* 1 *oz.*